HISTORY

...OF THE...

EEL RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

Owen D. Sours

WHERE CONFERENCE WAS ORGANIZED,
AUGUST 26, 1844.

. . HISTORY . .

——OF THE——

Eel River Christian Conference

from its organization to the present time—August 15, 1902—also History of all the Churches of the Conference from their organization to the present time, together with

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

of Ministers and Laymen, and much other important matter.

ILLUSTRATED.

1902:
NEWS PUBLISHING COMPANY,
HUNTINGTON, INDIANA.

"Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul.

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Foot-prints on the sands of time.

"Foot-prints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

"Let us, then, be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor and to wait.

—*Longfellow.*

PREFACE.

This book, a history of Eel River Christian Conference, and of her churches, together with biographical sketches of her ministers, illustrated with cuts of many of those who have labored in "sunshine and shadow" for the success of the Christian church and her principles has been prepared by a committee of the Conference appointed for that purpose. The initial steps for the publication of this work was taken at the annual session of the Conference held in August, 1900. President Whitelock suggested at that time that as almost 56 years had elapsed since the organization of the Conference, that if any history of its work were ever prepared it ought to be done soon. The matter was presented at a joint meeting of the Executive Board and Board of Trustees, and a committee was appointed to consider the advisability of preparing a Conference History, consisting of J. Frank Barnes, Rev. R. W. Page and J. M. Brown. This committee reported in favor of printing a history, and recommended that a committee be appointed to formulate a history and prepare it for the press. This report was approved and the following committee was selected: O. W. Whitelock, J. F. Barnes, Peter Winebrenner, David Hidy, R. W. Page.

At the session of Conference held at Six Mile church, August, 1901, Rev. W. J. Young was added to the committee on biography, and has been a very valuable helper in the work. The committee has taken pains to get the facts in relation to our Conference proceedings and to give a correct history of the churches of our Conference as far as obtainable. The work of the committee has been divided among the members. The biographical sketches being in the hands of Elder Winebrenner and Rev. W. J. Young, but they were not all prepared by these brethren. The church histories were, for the most part, collected by Elder Hidy and Rev. Page; the Conference history proper was prepared by our worthy secretary from the Conference records, and the constitution and by-laws codified by the president.

The aim of the committee has been accuracy, but no doubt some errors have crept into the work, but we believe the book is accurate in substantially all the statements of fact. The committee is greatly under obligations to the many brothers and sisters throughout the

Conference that have so ably assisted in this work. No attempt has been made to embellish the statements of fact by the use of ornate language, believing that what the brotherhood desired was a faithful historical record to be handed down from generation to generation. The book is a history of the progress of our Conference and churches in the past fifty-eight years. This record of the struggles of the early churches, her ministers and laiety, ought to be an inspiration to us and to our posterity to greater efforts in the vineyard of the Lord, and should encourage sacrifices on the part of the members of the Christian church for the upbuilding of our beloved Zion. If this shall be the fruition of the labors of this committee, then its work will not have been in vain, and we will feel that this book will be a golden chord binding the past to the present and linking this generation with those yet unborn.

We hope the brethren will pardon our mistakes and look upon this book as their own, and will lend a helping hand to send it forth on its mission of good.

COMMITTEE.

HISTORY.

In the earlier settlement of the north central part of Indiana, a few pioneer Christian ministers, who braved the privations of a new country had gone about from settlement to settlement and preached in log cabins and in the open woods until they had gathered together here and there a little band of earnest worshipers. These sturdy woodsmen believed that the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ should not be bound down by any creed but should take the Holy Bible as their only rule of faith and christian practice; that they like the free air of heaven which they breathed unrestrained, should have religious liberty of thought and should be allowed to fellowship all as christians who by their lives gave evidence of a christian character. These scattered flocks and those who, almost "without money and without price" fed them as best they could saw the necessity of organization for better work so they were called together for that purpose.

The first meeting of Eel River Christian Conference was held on Eel River, in Kosciusko county, Indiana, on the 26th day of August, 1844. The opening prayer was made by Elder Atchison. Elder A. Baldwin was chosen Chairman, and W. B. Wade, Secretary.

A resolution was then passed, that the name of this Conference should be Eel River Christian Conference; and one that this Conference should be composed of ministers and brethren in good standing. Also a resolution that this Conference look into the character and standing of ministers and churches, yearly.

The following churches were received at this first session: One near Deals Creek of twenty-six members, one in Miami Reserve of twenty-six members, one in Wabash of twenty-three members, one on Eel River of sixty-five members, the Washington township church of fifteen members, one near Wolf Lake of twelve members, Bethel, at Waterford, of forty-four members, one at Leesburg of fifty members, and the Chipaway church of twenty-three members. A committee of three persons was appointed to transact business during the recess of the Conference. W. B. Wade, Abner McCourtney, and Elias Baker were appointed to labor within the bounds of the Conference during the coming year.

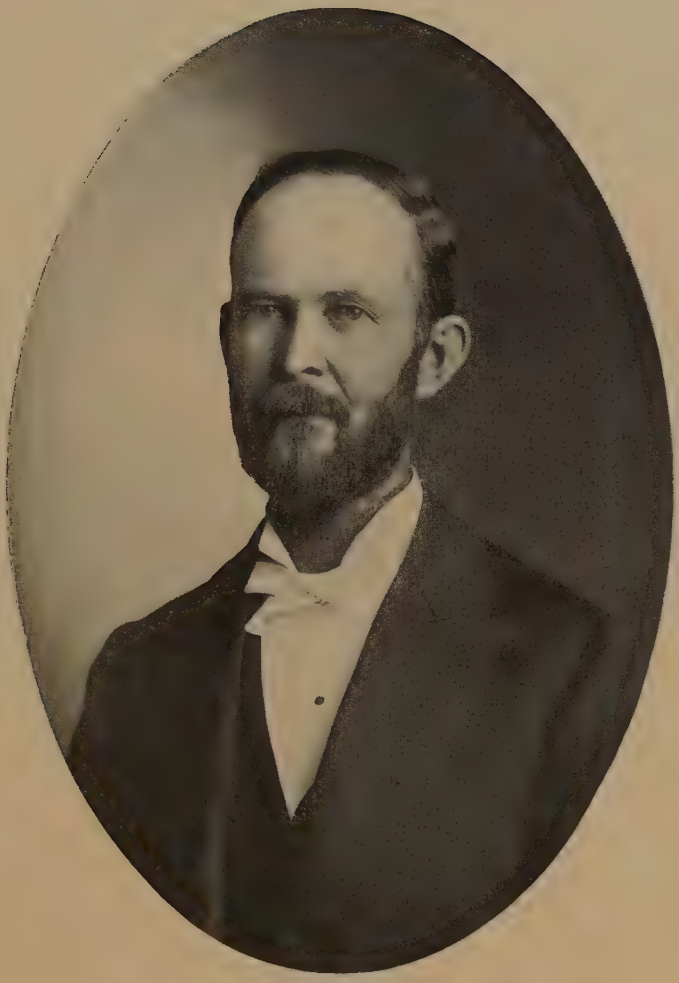
At the second session, at Leesburg in 1845, a committee was appointed to arrange an order of business, whose report seems to have been carried out somewhat after our present manner of conducting Conference. Three new churches, Pleasant Grove, Trembles Creek and Pleasant Hill were received at this session. A resolution was also passed urging all to patronize the *Herald of Gospel Liberty* and the *Home Missionary*. Elders Roberts and Atchison were again appointed to labor within the bounds of the Conference. Delegates to sister Conferences were appointed at this session. Address by Snow Ritchison, of Ohio. Elias Baker, President; W. B. Wade, Secretary.

The third annual session was held near Waterford, Elkhart county, August 13, 1846. Address by Elder J. Roberts. It was decided at this session that Conference support a traveling minister. The minutes do not mention who was appointed to fill this position. Joseph Roberts, President; W. B. Wade, Secretary.

The fourth annual session was held with the Pleasant Grove church, Wabash county, August 13, 1847. Address by Elder H. Barber. This year $176.50 was pledged by the church for the support of the ministry. In the minutes of this session we notice that churches report what they can pay for preaching during the coming year. These sums range from ten to seventy dollars for each church. Elders Roberts and Atchison were appointed to supply churches with preaching, and to take in all the new ground they can, supplying each church with preaching once in two weeks. The amount donated by the churches to be divided between them equally, and if this be not sufficient, the standing committee was to aid them. J. Roberts, President; W. B. Wade, Secretary.

The fifth annual session was held with the Washington township church, August 18, 1848. Elder Joseph Spencer was received at this session. The following churches were also received: Paw Paw, 50 members; Lagro, 13 members; Jefferson, Mich., 20 members; Cass Co., Mich., 5 members. A resolution was passed at this session requesting churches to supply themselves with preaching for the coming year. Wm. Rodman, President; W. B. Wade, Secretary.

The sixth annual session was held in the Jefferson church, Mich., August 16, 1849. A resolution was passed at this session censuring ministers for not better attending to their appointments, and providing for the dropping of a minister who had not called his congregation together for one year. Elder James Atchison was chosen evangelist at this session. Asa Pratt, James Mason and Peter D. Wood were



O. W. WHITELOCK,

President of Eel River Christian Conference.

appointed a committee to see that Elder Atchison received sufficient support as such evangelist. James Atchison, President; John Simington, Secretary.

The seventh annual session was held at the Bethel church, Elkhart county, August, 1850. Address by Elder F. E. Thomas. Rev. James Atchison, the evangelist, reported having preached 201 sermons, received 79 members, baptized 26, and received $81.79 salary. Joseph Roberts, President; F. E. Sparling and B. Benner, Secretaries.

The eighth annual session was held with the Pleasant Grove church, August, 1851. At this session Philip Zeigler, H. Parker and I. B. A. Keniston were received as members, and S. McGeorge, C. F. Wood, I. Bosely, A. Tabler and J. Gregory were received as licentiates.

The ninth annual session was held with the Merriam church, August, 1852. Address by Elder P. Zeigler. Members received and ordained, Thomas Whitman; licensed, Wm. C. Smith. Churches received, Millersburg, 7 members; Osalo, Elkhart county, 15 members; Saint Jo, 13 members; Mechanicsburg, 15 members. S. McGeorge was ordained. The following resolution was passed at this session: *Resolved*, That we appoint an evangelist to ride within the bounds of this Conference, to preach to the weak churches; and, that each preacher be an agent to solicit support for said evangelist; and, that Conference pay $75.00 for his services half the time. Elder Philip Zeigler was chosen as such evangelist. A resolution was also passed at this session strongly condemning intoxicating drinks, and urging ministers to use their influence against them. Cyrus Lowman, President; J. Simington, Secretary; T. Black, Assistant Secretary.

The tenth annual session was held in Jefferson, Cass county, Mich., August, 1853. Address by Elder Thos. Whitman. In the matter of Conference evangelist, Elder Zeigler reported having preached 212 sermons, traveled 2783 miles and received $163.06 salary as such evangelist. Churches were urged by Conference, to take quarterly collections for the support of this evangelist. A resolution commending Antioch College, in the strongest terms, was passed at this session. J. Spencer, President; J. Simington, Secretary.

The eleventh annual session was held at Pleasant Grove, August, 1854. Address by Elder Philip Zeigler. A resolution urging ministers to organize Sunday Schools in all their churches was favorably considered at this session. Also that they use the Christian literature in these schools. The slave question was discussed at some

length, and strong resolutions of condemnation of both slavery and the fugitive slave law were passed. T. Whitman, President; J. Simington, Secretary.

The twelfth annual session was held at Waterford, August, 1855. Address by Elder George Abbott. At this session the following resolution was passed: That we instruct the churches, that compose this Conference, in the future to take up collections and send them to the Conference, by their delegates, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Conference. Resolutions were also passed condemning lotteries, and urging the passing of a state prohibition law, promising to do all that we can to maintain such a law. P. Zeigler, President; J. Simington, Secretary.

The thirteenth annual session was held near Wolf Lake, August, 1856. Address by Elder Thomas Whitman. W. B. Jones was received as a member. The Millwood church of 42 members, and the Clear Creek church of 29 members were also admitted. Resolutions concerning the further extension of slavery were passed at this session. Churches were again urged to organize and maintain Sabbath Schools. The usual routine of business was transacted. J. H. Gregory, President, J. Simington, Secretary.

The fourteenth annual session was held in the Union church, August, 1857. The church at Rochester of 12 members was received at this session, but no other business of importance, aside from the usual Conference work was done.

The fifteenth annual session was held in the Clear Creek church, Huntington county, Ind., August, 1858. Address by Elder P. Zeigler. This was an interesting session at which six new churches were admitted into the Conference. C. F. Wood and P. Winebrenner were ordained. W. B. Jones, President; L. Goodrich, Secretary.

The sixteenth annual session was held in the Ludlow church in Kosciusko county, August, 1859. Address by Wm. B. Jones. Received three churches, viz: Rock Creek, 53 members; Warren, 22 members; West Union, 31 members. The business of this session seems to have been more systematically arranged, as we notice reports of committees on Publications, Sunday Schools, Education, etc. In addition, the usual resolutions condemning slavery and intoxicating drinks were passed. U. C. College was very strongly commended at this session. Thos. Whitman, President; J. Cunningham, Secretary.

The seventh annual session was held with the Pleasant Grove

church, August, 1860. Address by Elder Thos. Whitman. The Lancaster church, Wells county, of 34 members, was received at this session. An order of business was adopted which was very similar to that found in our recent publications of the Conference minutes. This was an interesting session of usual Conference work. P. Zeigler, President; J. Cunningham, Secretary.

The eighteenth annual session was held at the Waterford Christian church, August, 1861. Address by Peter Winebrenner. Several ministers united with Conference. The following important resolution was passed at this session: *Resolved*, That we hereby advise the churches of this Conference to have their organizations incorporated, at least before they build a meeting house, and to deed their property so that it will become the property of the Conference when the church shall have lost its visibility. The committee on missions reported in favor of organizing this Conference into a missionary society. M. McDaniels, President; J. Cunningham, Secretary.

The nineteenth annual session was held with the Merriam Christian church, August, 1862. Address by Abraham Snethen. N. Summerbell was present and lectured on education. He spoke in the interest of Union Christian College. The Antioch church of 40 members was received at this session. A committee reported in favor of organizing this Conference into a legally incorporated body; and recommending constitution and by-laws to govern the same. Conference also provided for a standing committee of five to transact business during the recess of Conference; the president and secretary to be two members of this committee. Each male member was requested and urged to pay 15 cents, and each female member to pay 5 cents missionary money to Conference, annually, for the support of the work, each church to adopt its own plan for raising the same. Geo. Abbott, President; J. Cunningham, Secretary.

The twentieth annual session was held in the Salamonie Christian church, Huntington county, August, 1863. Address by N. Summerbell. This session appears to have been an interesting one, devoted to hearing reports of various churches, and committees, and to the passing of the usual and ordinary resolutions. Elder Zeigler was employed, at a salary of $150.00, to devote one-half of his time to the weak churches. P. Zeigler, President; J. Cunningham, Secretary.

The twenty-first annual session was held in the Tippecanoe township, Kosciusko county, Christian church, August, 1864. Address

by Elder Thomas Whitman. A. R. Heath was present in the interest of Union Christian College. Active interest seems to have been taken in all matters pertaining to the Conference and its work. Geo. Abbott, President; C. Clemmons, Secretary; O. Garber, Assistant Secretary.

The twenty-second annual session was held in the Waterford Christian church, August, 1865. Address by Elder W. A. Goss. At this session an order of business very similar to that now in use was adopted and put into practice. They also passed resolutions in favor of U. C. College, urging all ministers and church members to give it their hearty support. Other resolutions pertaining to temperance, and urging churches to employ pastor's regularly were also passed at this session. The standing committee of Conference held a meeting in October, 1865, at which time the question of a Conference evangelist, or missionary, was discussed at some length, and seems to have resulted in the employment of such an evangelist. The time of holding Conference was also changed to October, but this change did not seem to be observed, as we notice the next session was held in September, and then the time changed back to August again. Elder Peter Winebrenner, President; R. Abbott, Vice-President; C. Clemmons, Secretary.

The twenty-third annual session was held in the Sugar Grove Christian church, September 26 to 28, 1866. Address by Elder James Atchison. A session of usual Conference business, much attention being given to the interests of missionary work among the churches; also urging churches to better support their ministers, that they might devote their entire time to the work of the ministry. Dr. P. L. West, President; C. Clemmons, Secretary.

The twenty-fourth annual session was held in the Murray Christian church, August 14 to 17, 1867. Address by Elder Wm. B. Jones. The usual Conference work much the same as the former session. Philip Ziegler, President; C. Clemmons, Secretary.

The twenty-fifth annual session was held in the Millwood Christian church, August, 1868. Address by Philip Ziegler. Churches received: Wakarusa, 50 members; Walkertown, 32 members; Wabash City, 75 members; Liberty Township, 50 members. Elder C. Clemmons withdrew from Conference at this session. Much active interest was manifested along the lines of Church and Sunday School papers, urging all to take and read the *Sunday School Herald* and *Herald of Gospel Liberty*. Thos. Whitman, President; C. Clemmons, Secretary.

The twenty-sixth annual session was held in the Union Christian church, August, 1869. Address by Elder Geo. Abbott. Churches received: Loon Lake and Spring Hill. The reports of the various committees, as set out in the minutes, show an active interest in all church and Sunday School work. About the usual routine, with business well arranged. Geo. Abbott, President; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary.

The twenty-seventh annual session was held in the Merriam Christian church, August, 1870. Address by Rev. J. J. Markley. Churches received: Leesburg and Purviance Chapel. At this session Conference passed resolutions instructing each church to elect a financial board, to take charge of all church work, along financial lines, and to co-operate with the financial board of Conference; also that each male church member pay annually fifty cents to Conference for the support of the work. J. J. Markley, President; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary.

The twenty-eighth annual session was held in the Eel River Christian church, August, 1871. Address by Thos. Whitman. At this session a resolution was passed that Conference shall not ordain any person, only upon the request of the church to which he may belong, and upon the recommendation of said church. A resolution was again passed urging each male member of the churches to pay annually into Conference the sum of fifty cents, in order that the financial board may supply destitute churches with preaching, and for the purchase of tracts and other publications. Thos. Whitman, President; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary; John P. Kitt, Treasurer.

The twenty-ninth annual session was held in the Six Mile Christian church, August, 1872. Address by Elder D. W. Fowler. Churches received: Oak Hill, Warren and Kelso. A committee was appointed at this session to incorporate Conference. The following important resolution was also passed:

WHEREAS, There has been invitations and solicitations from different cities and towns, of importance; and

WHEREAS, There is a growing desire on the part of the creed-ridden and creed-bound people, and also a desire upon the part of many good people who cannot conscientiously subscribe to articles of faith and confessions made by men, and unauthorized by God; Therefore be it

Resolved, That we enter this field of labor by distributing tracts, setting forth the principles of Christian connection, and as soon as

our missionary fund will warrant, supply those cities and towns with preaching, authorizing the executive committee of this Conference to make selections of tracts already published and authorizing the writing and publishing of such others as they in their judgment shall deem best to answer our purposes.

The ministers living within the bounds of Conference, who were not already members of the same, were urged to become identified in Conference capacity, thereby strengthening the work and submitting themselves to the brethren for the Lord's sake. D. W. Fowler, President: Peter Winebrenner, Secretary; D. W. Jones, Assistant Secretary; John P. Kitt, Treasurer.

The thirtieth annual session was held in the Antioch Christian church, August, 1873. At this session resolutions were passed providing for an equal number of brethren and sisters to be appointed as delegates to Conference. This was to encourage the sisters to attend Conference, something which they were not doing. Also a resolution providing that each church be allowed two delegates, and and two additional delegates for each 25 members, said delegates to be equally divided between the brothers and sisters of each church. A committee on incorporation was appointed at this session. A called session of Conference was held at Pleasant Grove church, October, 1873, for the incorporation of Eel River Christian Conference. Resolutions to that effect were passed, and territory of Conference designated. Five trustees were also elected. D. W. Jones, President; P. Winebrenner, Secretary; John P. Kitt, Treasurer.

The thirty-first annual session was held in the Paw Paw Christian church, August 12 to 15, 1874. Churches received: Rock Creek, Hopewell and Beech Grove. At this session a committee on reform and recommendations, as to church organization, made report. This report is quite lengthy and provides a form of business for the churches, also setting forth the duties of the various officers of each church, providing for quarterly and annual business meetings, defining duties of both pastor and church members, in fact a good model for church organization. They also decided to elect Conference Presidents for a term of three years, or during good behavior. This rule does not seem to have been observed for very many years. At this session David Hidy was President; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary; John P. Kitt, Treasurer.

The thirty-second annual session was held in the Christian church near Coesse, Whitley county, Indiana, August 11 to 14, 1875,

Address by Elder George Abbott. The committee on incorporation of Conference reported, at this session, that what had been done did not comply with the statutes of Indiana, and recommended that steps be taken at once to perfect the incorporation. Thereupon the President appointed the following committee for that purpose, P. Winebrenner, John P. Kitt and Samuel Ohlwine.

A called session of Conference was held October 13, 1875, at the Christian church near Wolf Lake for the incorporation of Eel River Christian Conference, to embrace the counties of Steuben, DeKalb, Allen, Wells, Adams, Huntington, Whitley, Noble, Lagrange, Elkhart, Kosciusko and Wabash. The following trustees were elected: For one year, Abraham Studabaker, Aaron Simpson and Christian Myers; for two years, Miller Morgan, Samuel Ohlwine and John P. Kitt; for three years, Robert Gill, David P. Studabaker and Benjamin Benner. Certificates of election of the above trustees were issued and duly recorded in Albion, Noble county, October 20, 1875, in Miscellaneous Record No. 2, Page 45. D. W. Jones, President; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary; J. P. Kitt, Treasurer.

The thirty-third annual session was held in the Pleasant Grove Christian church, August, 1876. Address by Peter Winebrenner. At this session the custon of reading the minutes annually was abolished, and the minutes read and corrected each morning. The committee on incorporation of Conference also made its report, as noted in former session. Officers same as previous session.

The thirty-fourth annual session was held in the Sugar Grove Christian church, August 16 to 18, 1877. Address by Elder Thomas Whitman. A session of the usual Conference work, hearing reports of committees, passing resolutions, and planning for the "general welfare" of the work. Officers same as former session.

The thirty-fifth annual session was held in the Murray Christian church, August 15 to 17, 1878. Address by Peter Winebrenner. At this session the custom of voting by proxy was abolished. A very harmonious and profitable session, much good being done in stirring up earnestness and zeal in the churches in general. Officers same as former session.

The thirty-sixth annual session was held in the Millwood Christian church, August 13 to 16, 1879. Address by W. S. Manville. The Sparta church was received at this session. An interesting session of usual Conference business. Officers same as former session.

The thirty-seventh annual session was held in the Union Christian church, Whitley county, August 11 to 14, 1880. Address by Elder Thomas Whitman. Some important resolutions were passed at this session. We notice the following: "That the churches of Eel River Christian Conference be instructed, by the ministers, not to employ any man, as minister, unless he comes to them recommended by some Christian Conference." "That churches composing this Conference, when recommending candidates for license, show their willingness to support the candidate for at least one year." "That those who rise to speak in open Conference, shall confine themselves directly to the question, and avoid all personalities and everything which is calculated to mar the peace or wound the feelings of any one; and further, it shall be the duty of the President of this Conference to see that the above resolutions be carried out in full, from this time forth and forever." D. W. Jones, President; C. V. Strickland, Vice-President; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary; John P. Kitt, Treasurer.

The thirty-eighth annual session was held in the Merriam Christian church, August 17, 1881. At this session it was *Resolved*, "That Conference require its members, both ministers and delegates, to remain during the entire Conference session unless excused by the President, and if any objections were offered by any member he must also obtain consent of the Conference before he is legally excused." A session of usual Conference work hearing reports of committees and passing resolutions. Officers same as former session.

The thirty-ninth annual session was held with the Eel River Christian church, Kosciusko county, August 16 to 19, 1882. At this session it was ordered that each male member pay 50 cents and each female member 25 cents annually to the Treasurer of Conference; and further that ministers having charge of churches, solicit the payment of these funds from the members, and pay the same over to the Treasurer. A very harmonious session of interesting Conference work. W. D. Samuel, President; David Hidy, Vice-President; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary; John P. Kitt, Treasurer.

There was a called session of Conference held in the Union Christian church in March, 1883, at which meeting provisions were made for the sale of the Wabash Christian church, and for the payment of the debt on the Leesburg church. This was accomplished later in the same spring, the Leesburg debt being paid in full.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF EEL RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

Rev. Dr. G. R. Hammond. J. F. Barnes. W. H. LaFong.

Willard Jones. O. W. Whitelock. Rev. R. W. Page.

The fortieth annual session was held in the Six Mile Christian church, August 15 to 18, 1883. At this session a resolution was passed ordering that all ministers laboring within the bounds of this Conference as Christian ministers, to be recognized as such, must hold a membership in this or some other Christian Conference, and to be recognized as ordained ministers must receive ordination by the authority of some Christian Conference. Also a resolution urging that we secure good music, both vocal and instrumental, in our worship. A committee reporting on women's work in the church, extends to women the same rights and privileges to teach, preach or lecture on temperance or literature, in fact, all works of love required in the gospel. This session was full of interest in the cause of the Master. David Hidy was President; W. D. Samuel, Vice-President; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary; John P. Kitt, Treasurer.

The forty-first annual session was held with the Warren Christian church, August 13 to 16, 1884. It was ordered at this session that each minister, who has not laid before his charge and endeavored to collect the Conference Mission Fund, shall be reprimanded. This seems to have been a harmonious and profitable session. Officers same as former session.

The forty-second annual session was held in the Wakarusa Christian church, August 12 to 15, 1885. There was the usual Conference work of hearing reports of churches and ministers, passing resolutions, etc. John Sellers, President; W. Messimore, Vice President; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary; John P. Kitt, Treasurer.

The forty-third annual session was held with the New Madison Christian church, August 11 to 14, 1886. At this session it was ordered that reports of ministers and churches be handed to the Secretary to be read in open Conference during the first and second days of the session, and all reports received after this be placed on file for publication, but not read. Only in case of reports, that have been called for, and have not reported the year before, such reports to be read, if handed in before the close of the session. It was also resolved that each member of each church be assessed 5 cents per quarter, as a missionary fund to be used among the weak churches of Conference. Such assessment to be made on the members and not on the church as a body. Officers same as former session.

The forty-fourth annual session was held with the Broadway Christian church, August 17 to 20, 1887. At this session it was *Resolved*, That this Conference use the blanks that shall be adopted

by the American Christian Convention for church and Sabbath School reports, etc. Also that Conference reccommend all the churches and ministers to respond to the call of the American Christian Convention for the following collections annually: 1st, For The Convention, on Christmas. 2nd, For Education, on Easter Sunday. 3rd, For Home Missions, on Children's Day. 4th, Foreign Missions, second Sunday in October. Also *Resolved*, That we, as ministers, pledge ourselves to take up the collections required by the Quadrennial and this Conference, and failing to do our duty, that we be reprimanded by the President in open Conference. Also resolutions for the establishing of a Sinking Fund. Also, assessing each member 10 cents per quarter for the use of Conference. That in the election of officers, candidates shall be nominated, and not placed on vote by motion and seconded, as the latter is a barrier to fair elections. Also resolutions repealing all former methods of raising finances, except the one adopted at this session. Officers same as the former session.

The forty-fifth annual session was held with the Bluffton Christian church, August 15 to 18, 1888. At this session the following resolutions were passed: That this Conference advise the churches composing its body to close their Chapels against any and all persons, who may desire to occupy their pulpits, who are not known to be of good character, and who do not come recommended by some religious body or denomination to which they belong. Keep them out of our Chapels until they bring letters of recommendation of their good ministerial character and ability to preach the gospel. Also *Resolved*, That this Conference will not allow any minister of another denomination to hold a lengthy meeting in our Chapels and to organize another church, and then demand of us a regular portion of time, each month, as has been done, and by so doing cause confusion, disturbance and division. Officers same as former session.

The forty-sixth annual session was held with the Sparta Christian church, Noble county, August 14 to 17, 1889. At this session it was *Resolved*, That no church be allowed to employ a minister until they have made full settlement for the previous year. Also, that no church property in the bounds of this Conference shall be deeded to the Trustees of Eel River Conference, until said property shall be free from all indebtedness. John W. Sellers, President; Robert L. Amber, Vice-President; Frank Shaffer, Treasurer; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary.

The forty-seventh annual session was held with the North

Manchester Christian church, August 13 to 16, 1890. At this session the following resolution was passed: That the Eel River Christian Conference approves the efforts being made by Rev. E. A. Devore, to secure a permanent endowment for the Chair of Biblical Literature of Union Christian College, and a resident for the incumbent of that chair; we pledge for this purpose the sum of five hundred dollars, with six per cent. annual interest, and that the principal be paid within ten years, in such installments as may suit the convenience of this body. Also ordered that the President of Conference strike a dividend among all the churches in this Conference, and notify each church what her quoto will be in liquidating said debt. Also *Resolved*, That this Conference raise during the next six months, through the medium of ten cents per quarter, Home Mission Fund, the first half of which will be twenty cents per member, which will consummate the amount of funds for the purpose of establishing one church this year, and that a committee of five shall be appointed to say where such church shall be located. The committee appointed was Jonathan Whitelock, A. T. Studabaker, J. W. Griffith, Samuel Long and Andrew Pence.

At a called session of Conference held in North Manchester, May 12, 1891, this committee reported in favor of Huntington as the most favorable location for establishing a Christian church.

The forty-eighth annual session was held with the Collamer Christian church, August 14 to 18, 1891. At this session it was *Resolved*, That a Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society be organized for the purpose of creating a greater interest in missions, and raising funds to promote the same. A motion also prevailed that the Conference mission, 10 cents per quarter, fund shall be paid in November, February, May and August, and that the regular Conference fund of 5 cents per member be paid in July. Officers same as former session.

The forty-ninth annual session was held with the Kelso Christian church, August 17 to 20, 1892. At this session the four annual collections as requested by the A.C.C. were approved by this Conference: First, Foreign Mission, September; American Christian Convention, December; Education, March; Home Mission, June. Eel River Conference collections, for Conference Home Mission Fund, should be collected quarterly. The Conference fund collection should be taken one or two months before the annual session of Conference. Also a resolution that the pledge, to the U. C. C., of $500.00, must be met. Some churches have paid their quota in full, those who have not done so

are requested to raise their amount severally, during the year, so that this pledge may be paid in full at our next annual session of Conference. Also, committee report on the U. C. C. fund that the Conference should agree to the conditions named in the original resolutions; the money to be placed in the keeping of some responsible person named by the Board of Trustees of the College. No part of this money to be diverted from the purpose named in the resolution, and in case a sufficient amount is not raised for this purpose, that it be added to the Regular Endowment of the College. Also it was ordered, that no money be appropriated for anything it was not collected for. Also that a committee of five be appointed to be known as a Standing Finance Committee; and all applications for aid in Conference be made to this committee, who shall report to this body for its action. Finance and Church Extension Committee to be the same committee. Also, *Resolved*, That a committee of four be constituted, to revise all motions and by-laws that have been passed from time to time by this Conference, and for the government thereof, and make their report to this Conference at its next annual session; and that the President and Secretary shall be members of said committee, the other two members to be appointed by the Conference. The members appointed were, Elders David Hidy and George Abbott. On the incorporation of said Conference, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, which are set out in full in another part of this History. O. W. Whitelock, President; R. L. Amber, Vice-President; Dr. P. Shaffer, Treasurer; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary.

The fiftieth annual session was held with the Wakarusa Christian church, August 16 to 19, 1893. At this session the following resolution was adopted: "*Resolved*, That as a Conference, we demand of every person who applies for a license to preach, that he give evidence of having studied (or that he will study) to show himself an approved workman, by completing a course of reading or study, or its equivalent, as laid down by this body, through a committee to be appointed at this Conference to prepare such course." In the matter of the U. C. college pledge, O. W. Whitelock, A. Bayman and Wm. Perdue were appointed a committee to confer with the Trustees of said College with a view of adjusting matters and report at the next session of Conference. This was an interesting session showing a good interest along all lines of church work. O. W. Whitelock, President; David Hidy, Vice-President; Thomas J. John, Treasurer; Peter Winebrenner, Secretary.

The fifty-first annual session was held with the Merriam Christian church, August 15 to 18, 1894. Annual address by Rev. D. B. Atkinson. Committee on Course of Study for applicants for license to preach reported a Three Year's Course with annual written examinations. After a spirited discussion the report of the committee was adopted. The committee appointed to settle with U. C. College on the pledge for a Biblical Chair in said college reported that they had settled the same by paying $74.16 which was in the hands of the Treasurer. This amount to be received as settlement in full for all claims of said college. Report adopted. This was one of the most harmonious and profitable sessions of Eel River Conference, all work being done in the spirit of progression and christian love. O. W. Whitelock, President; David Hidy, Vice-President; Thos. J. John, Treasurer; W. D. Samuel, Secretary; D. B. Atkinson, Assistant Secretary.

The fifty-second annual session was held with the Warren Christian church, August 14 to 17, 1895. At this session trial sermons were delivered on Tuesday evening by Rev. W. J. Young, Rev. John M. Miller and Rev. C. H. Marks, who were pursuing the course of study as outlined by Conference. Annual address was delivered by Rev. J. W. Bolton and was replete with good advice to both ministers and laymen. The following resolution was passed at this session, "That the Sunday Schools take up a special collection in the month of October for Franklinton College. The same to be kept account of and reported in the annual Sunday School reports to Conference. But the collection, as soon as taken, be sent to Rev. J. F. Burnett, Secretary A. C. C." The territory of Conference was also apportioned among the members of the Board of Trustees for the purpose of ascertaining how church properties were deeded and to see that such deeds were properly excuted and recorded. Reports of various committees were full of enthusiasm and life and taken all in all this was a pleasant and profitable session. Officers same as former session.

The fifty-third annual session was held with the Union Christian church, August 12 to 15, 1896. The following young ministers, who were following the course of study, gave 10 minute sermons on Tuesday evening, J. M. Miller, C. H. Marks, W. J. Young, Jos. Amber and Samuel Frantz. Annual address by Rev. Peter Winebrenner, an able effort from the subject, "Pressing Forward." This was a very pleasant session of work pertaining to the general interest and advancement of the various lines of church activity. O. W. Whitelock, President;

David Hidy, Vice-President; J. W. Bolton; Secretary; J. F. Barnes, Assistant Secretary; T. J. John, Treasurer.

The fifty-fourth annual session session was held with the Paw Paw Christian church, August 11 to 14, 1897. Trial sermons were given on Tuesday evening by W. J. Young, Mrs. M. A. Tompkins and Samuel Frantz. J. M. Miller was sick and unable to respond. Annual address by Rev. W. D. Samuel, subject, "Having a Desire to Excel." This was one among the best addresses of this able speaker. A Sunday School Association of the Sunday Schools of Eel River Conference was organized at this session. Its purpose being to stimulate a greater interest in this important branch of christian work. J. M. Brown, of Bluffton, was chosen chairman, and J. F. Barnes, of Huntington, secretary-treasurer of this association. An Executive Board, consisting of one member from each county, was also chosen. The Conference was divided into six districts for the purpose of local organization, each district to hold at least one session each year, and all districts to meet in union meeting at least once each year. This organization has since been combined with the Christian Endeavor Union of the Eel River Conference in its annual meetings. The committee reports, sermons and addresses all showed marked interest in the cause, during this entire session. O. W. Whitelock, President; David Hidy, Vice-President; J. F. Barnes, Secretary; W. J. Young, Assistant Secretary; T. J. John, Treasurer.

The fifty-fifth annual session was held with the Pleasant Grove Christain church, August 17 to 20, 1898. Annual address by President O. W. Whitelock, "Some of the Needs and Objects of the Christian Church." This address was full of good practical ideas along the line of progression in church work. An effort was made at this session to establish a State paper. While much support and encouragement was given the movement, it was later abandoned. A good interest was shown in all departments of the work, especially Sunday Schools, C. E. Societies, and Mission work. The following course of study was adopted:

FIRST YEAR.

First Term—Life of Christ, Stalker. Biblical Geography, Hurlbut.
Second Term—Genesis. Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation, Walker.
Third Term—Christian Evidences, Fisher. Ancient History, Myers.

SECOND YEAR.

First Term—Isaiah. Church History, Fisher.
Second Term—Modern History, Myers. Church History, Fisher.
Third Term—Life of Paul, Stalker. Romans.

THIRD YEAR.

First Term—Homiletics, Broadus. How to be a Pastor, Cuyler.
Second Term—Homiletics, Broadus. Matthew and John.
Third Term—Ethical Science, McWhinney. English Literature, Shaw.

FOURTH YEAR.

First Term—Christian Principles. Acts.
Second Term—The Working Church, Thuring. Theology, Fairchild.
Third Term—Moral Philosophy, Fairchild. Crisis of Missions, Pierson.

The following rules were also adopted to govern the Course of Study:

I. Each local Conference shall appoint a committee of three to be known as the Committee on Education. The chairmen of the Committees on Education shall constitute the State Board of Education.

II. It shall be the duty of the State Board of Education to prepare the questions for examination and have the same printed. The expense of printing the questions shall be borne by the local Conferences.

III. The examinations shall be conducted and the papers graded by the Committee on Education. The examinations shall be conducted as nearly as possible in December, March and July.

IV. Applicants for license shall complete the first year's work before receiving a license.

V. Applicants for ordination shall complete the entire course and also write a thesis of not more than 1,200 words. The subject for the thesis shall be assigned by the Committee on Education upon application by the student.

VI. The local Conferences may grant a diploma to each person who satisfactorily completes the required work for ordination.

Officers same as former session.

The fifty-sixth annual session was held with the Sparta Christian church, August 16 to 19, 1899. Annual address by Rev. J. A. Wood, "The Golden Thread." This was an able address, teeming with elevating and helpful christian suggestions. The Executive Board and Board of Trustees reported the purchase of a church property in the city of Elkhart at a cost of $2725.42. This property was purchased from the Congregational church and was secured at a very reasonable price. It was reported that a Christian organization has been formed and the work already started. Rev. G. R. Hammond was employed by the Executive Board to preach at this point during the next year, devoting one-half his time to said work, Conference to pay him for this service. Much interest was shown, by members of Conference, in the success of the work at this our new mission church. Also a good interest was manifested in C. E. and other lines of church development. Officers same as former session.

The fifty-seventh annual session was held with the Millersburg Christian church, August 15 to 18, 1900. An able welcome address was

tendered this session of Conference by Hon. B. F. Deal, of Goshen, Ind. Response was given by Pres. Whitelock on part of Conference. The Rock Creek Center church was admitted into Conference at this session. Annual message or address was given by President Whitelock. This address was a review of our accomplishments during the past year, as well as our future prospects for advancing the cause of our beloved church. One of the treats of this session was an eloquent address by Rev. John R. H. Latchaw, D. D., of Defiance Christian College, Defiance, Ohio. Rev. Latchaw had but recently united with the Christian church. A resolution was passed at this session limiting the time of a licentiate in completing the course of study to four years, unless hindered by sickness, and in such cases, the time to be extended equal to the time consumed by such sickness. A committee was appointed to canvass for funds to apply on the Elkhart church debt, Rev. Hammond being chairman of said committee. Rev. Hammond was again employed for the Elkhart work during the coming year. He to devote one-half his time to said work. Rev. Hammond succeeded nicely at this place. This was a harmonious and interesting session, much good work being accomplished. O. W. Whitelock, President; David Hidy, Vice-President; W. B. Knapp, Treasurer; J. F. Barnes, Secretary; W. J. Young, Assistant Secretary.

The fifty-eighth annual session was held with the Six Mile Christian church, August 14 to 17, 1901. The following delivered short sermons on Tuesday evening: A. E. Kemp, Samuel Frantz, Hiley Baker, and Mrs. Mary G. Rheubottom. Revs. Kemp and Rheubottom having completed the entire Course of Study were granted ordination at this session. Welcome address by Rev. J. M. Miller, pastor of Bluffton and Six Mile churches. Response by President. It was decided at this session to publish a History of Eel River Christian Conference, embodying the most important acts of said Conference, and including histories of churches, and biographies of ministers, officers, etc. Committees were appointed to prepare said work. The Christian Endeavor work of this session was especially interesting, an able program being given by this committee. The work of the Women's Home and Foreign Mission Board was also well presented. Resolutions were passed urging each church to bring up its full 40 cents per member, Conference Mission Fund, as this fund is badly needed. Pastors were required to present this matter to their churches at least once per quarter. The committee on Course of Study reported in favor of a Preparatory Course of work in English Grammar, U. S. History, Physiology, Composition and English Authors, to precede the regular outlined Conference course. This report was approved by Conference and such work outlined. Reports of committees were all encouraging, showing activity along most lines of Conference and church work. A very pleasant and profitable session. Officers same as former session.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF EEL RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE.

J. M. Brown. B. F. Humbarger. R. T. Adams. B. F. Domer. Sylvester Blackman.
A. J. Mays. John Dorsey. Rev. W. W. Stuart. W. B. Knapp.

OFFICERS

Who Have Served Eel River Christian Conference Since Its Organization in 1844 to 1901, Inclusive.

PRESIDENTS.

Elder A. Baldwin, 1844.
Elias Baker, 1845.
Joseph Roberts, 1846, '47, '50.
Wm. Rodman, 1848.
James Atchison, 1849.
Joseph Spencer, 1851, '53.
Cyrus Lowman, 1852.
Thomas Whitman, 1854, '59, '68, '71.
Philip Zeigler, 1855, '60, '63, '67.
J. H. Gregory. 1856, '57.
W. B. Jones, 1858.
M. McDaniels, 1861.
George Abbott, 1862, '64, '69.
Peter Winebrenner, 1865.
Dr. P. L. West, 1866.
J. J. Markley, 1870.
D. W. Fowler, 1872.
D. W. Jones, 1873, '75, '76, '77, '78, '79, '80, '81.
David Hidy, 1874, '83, '84.
W. D. Samuel, 1882.
J. W. Sellers, 1885, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91.
O. W. Whitelock, 1892, '93, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99, '00, '01.

SECRETARIES.

W. B. Wade, 1844, '45, '46, '47, '48.
John Simington, 1849, '51, '52, '53, '54, '55, '56.

F. E. Sparling and B. Benner, 1850.
L. Goodrich, 1857, '58.
J. Cunningham, 1859, '60, '61, '62, '63.
C. Clemmons, 1864, '65, '66, '67, '68.
Peter Winebrenner, 1869, '70, '71, '72, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '78, '79, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88, '89, '90, '91, '92, '93.
W. D. Samuel, 1894, '95.
J. W. Bolton, 1896.
J. F. Barnes, 1897, '98, '99, '00, '01.

TREASURERS.

The records as to the office of Treasurer are not very satisfactory. But beginning in the year 1863 the following is approximately correct:

Asa Pratt, 1863, '64, '65, '66, '67, '68, '69, '70.
John P. Kitt, 1871, '72, '73, '74, '75, '76, '77, '78, '79, '80, '81, '82, '83, '84, '85, '86, '87, '88.
Frank Shaffer, 1889, '90.
Dr. P. Shaffer, 1891, '92.
Thomas J. John, 1893, '94, '95, '96, '97, '98, '99.
W. B. Knapp, 1900, '01.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

1885.

C. V. Strickland, Argos.
W. Messimore, Sidney.
Peter Winebrenner, Merriam.
James Atchison, Pierceton.
David Hidy, North Manchester.

1886.

C. V. Strickland, Argos.
W. Messimore, Sidney.
Peter Winebrenner, Merriam.
James Atchison, Pierceton.
David Hidy, North Manchester.

1887.

C. V. Strickland, Argos.
W. Messimore, Sidney.
Peter Winebrenner, Merriam.
James Atchison, Pierceton.
David Hidy, North Manchester.
J. W. Sellers, Mentone.

1888.

J. W. Sellers, Mentone. W. Messimore, Sidney.
James Atchison, Pierceton. David Hidy, North Manchester.
J. J. Copeland, Xenia. Peter Winebrenner, Merriam.

1889.

J. W. Sellers, Mentone. W. Messimore, Sidney.
James Atchison, Pierceton. David Hidy, North Manchester.
J. J. Copeland, Xenia. Peter Winebrenner, Merriam.

1890.

J. W. Sellers, Mentone. W. Messimore, Sidney.
James Atchison, Pierceton. David Hidy, North Manchester.
J. J. Copeland, Xenia. Peter Winebrenner, Merriam.

1891.

J. W. Sellers, Mentone. W. D. Samuel, Warren.
David Hidy, North Manchester. J. J. Copeland, Goshen.
V. R. Miller, Goshen. Peter Winebrenner, Merriam.

1892.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington. W. D. Samuel, Warren.
J. W. Sellers, Mentone. W. H. Knepple, Wakarusa.
Geo. Abbott, North Manchester. P. Winebrenner, N. Manchester.

1893.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington. W. W. Sutton, Huntington.
Geo. Abbott, North Manchester. J. P. Kitt, Merriam.
David Werntz, Wakarusa. Peter Winebrenner, Argos.

1894.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington. J. F. Barnes, Huntington.
David Werntz, Wakarusa. J. P. Kitt, Merriam.
W. D. Samuel, Warren. W. W. Sutton, Huntington.

1895.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington. J. F. Barnes, Huntington.
W. D. Samuel, Warren. J. W. Bolton, Bluffton.
David Werntz, Wakarusa. W. W. Sutton, Huntington.

1896.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington. J. F. Barnes, Huntington.
Peter Winebrenner. Merriam. J. W. Bolton, Bluffton.
David Werntz, Wakarusa. W. W. Sutton, Huntington.

1897.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington.
Peter Winebrenner, Merriam.
David Werntz, Wakarusa.
J. F. Barnes, Huntington.
J. M. Rittgers, Huntington.
W. W. Sutton, Huntington.

1898.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington.
Peter Winebrenner, Merriam.
Alfred Ross, Collamer.
J. F. Barnes, Huntington.
David Werntz, Wakarusa.
W. W. Sutton, Huntington.

1899.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington.
G. R. Hammond, Elkhart.
R. W. Page, Merriam.
J. F. Barnes, Huntington.
W. H. LaFong, Kimmel.
W. W. Sutton, Huntington.

1900.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington.
G. R. Hammond, Elkhart.
R. W. Page, Merriam.
J. F. Barnes, Huntington.
W. H. LaFong, Kimmel.
W. W. Sutton, Huntington.

1901.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington.
G. R. Hammond, Elkhart.
R. W. Page, Merriam.
J. F. Barnes, Huntington.
W. H. LaFong, Kimmel.
A. P. W. Jones, Huntington.

TRUSTEES.

On the incorporation of Conference, October, 1875, the following persons were elected Trustees: Abraham Studabaker, Aaron Simpson, Christian Myers, Miller Morgan, Samuel Ohlwine, John P. Kitt, Robert Gill, David P. Studabaker, and Benjamin Benner. The first three to serve one year, the second three to serve two years, and the third three to serve three years. The election as made at the special session in October, 1875, was confirmed at the regular session in August, 1876. At each annual session thereafter three trustees were elected, as follows:

1877.

Christian Myers, Leesburg.
William Hughes, Leesburg.
Aaron Simson, Pierceton.

1878.

Abraham Studabaker, Bluffton.
J. J. Markley, Murray.
J. P. Kitt, Merriam.

1879.

Jas. Winesburg, N. Manchester.
W. Messimore, Pierceton.
Wm. H. Lancaster, Larwill.

1880.

Aaron Simson, Pierceton.
Wm. Hughes, Leesburg.
Christian Myers, Leesburg.

1881.

George Ott, Merriam.
A. J. Studabaker, Bluffton.
J. J. Markley, Murray.

1882.

Jas. Winesburg, N. Manchester.
W. Messimore, Pierceton.
Wm. H. Lancaster, Larwill.

1883.

L. Pullen, Collamer.
Aaron Simson, Pierceton.
Wm. Hughes, Leesburg.

1884.

George Ott, Merriam.
A. T. Studabaker, Bluffton.
George McConnell, Sidney.

1885.

Jacob Fry, Majenica.
W. Messimore, Sidney.
Alexander Bayman, Pierceton.

1886.

R. Walser, Buena Vista.
L. Pullen, Collamer.
J. Winesburg, New Madison.

1887.

Samuel Ohlwine, Collamer.
A. T. Studabaker, Bluffton.
George McConnell, Sidney.

1888.

Jacob Fry, Majenica.
W. Messimore, Sidney.
Alexander Bayman, Pierceton.

1889.

R. Walser, Beuna Vista.
L. Pullen, Collamer.
J. Winesburg, New Madison.

1890.

Samuel Ohlwine, Collamer.
A. Studabaker, Bluffton.
George McConnell, Sidney.

1891.

Jacob Fry, Majenica.
W. Messimore, Sidney.
Alexander Bayman, Pierceton.

1892.

H. W. Dalrymple, Bluffton.
Loyd S. Jones, Warren.
W. B. Rogers, Millersburg.

1893.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington.
W. D. Samuel, Warren.
Thos. J. John, N. Manchester.

1894.

Jacob Fry, Majenica.
Wm. Perdue, Warren.
Alexander Bayman, Pierceton.

1895.

W. W. Stuart, Warren.
W. B. Rogers, Millersburg.
J. M. Brown, Bluffton.

1896.

O. W. Whitelock, Huntington.
T. J. John, North Manchester.
Thos. Whitman, So. Whitley.

1897.

Robert Amber, Urbana.
Jos. Knight, Dunfee.
A. J. Mays, Millersburg.

1898.

W. B. Knapp, Cromwell.
W. W. Stuart, N. Manchester.
J. M. Brown, Bluffton.

1899.

Sylvester Blackman, Kimmel.
John Dorsey, Oswego.
B. F. Domer, Collamer.

1900.

A. J. Mays, Millersburg.
R. T. Adams, N. Manchester.
B. F. Humbarger, N. Manchester.

1901.

W. B. Knapp, Cromwell.
W. W. Stuart, North Manchester.
J. M. Brown, Bluffton.

OFFICERS OF CONFERENCE.

President, Judge O. W. Whitelock, Huntington.
Vice-President, Rev. David Hidy, North Manchester.
Treasurer, William B. Knapp, Cromwell.
Secretary, J. F. Barnes, Huntington.
Assistant Secretary, Calvin Perdue, Warren.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

O. W. Whitelock, President, Huntington.
J. F. Barnes, Secretary, Huntington.
G. R. Hammond, Elkhart.
W. H. LaFong, Kimmel.
R. W. Page, Merriam.
Willard Jones, Huntington.

TRUSTEES.

Sylvester Blackman, Kimmel.
John Dorsey, Oswego.
B. F. Domer, Collamer.
A. J. Mays, Millersburg.
R. T. Adams, N. Manchester.
B. F. Humbarger, N. Manchester.
William B. Knapp, Cromwell.
W.W. Stuart, Hoppertown, Mich.
J. M. Brown, Bluffton.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION.

President, Rev. W. J. Young, Huntington.
Vice-President, Prof. F. T. Atkinson, Wakarusa.
Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Ocee (Carns) Jellison, So. Whitley.
Member Executive Board, Rev. Hiley Baker, Kimmel.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

President, W. B. Knapp, Cromwell.
Secretary-Treasurer, J. N. Ohlwine, Cromwell.

WOMEN'S HOME AND FOREIGN MISSION BOARD.

President, Mrs. M. A. Tompkins, Elkhart.
Vice-President, Mrs. Hannah Dohner, Collamer.
Secretary, Mrs. Nettie Young, Huntington.
Treasurer, Mrs. Mina Young, Merriam.

CHURCHES.

ANTIOCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized at Shepherd's school house, near where the present church stands, in 1862, by Elder George Abbott, with fifteen charter members. The church is located in Chester township, Wabash county, Ind., and is a modern brick structure valued at $1500. The present membership numbers 70. Rev. Samuel Frantz, who now resides in North Manchester, is a member of the church. Rev. John Singer, who is now in Kansas, also formerly belonged here. The church has been served by the following pastors: Geo. Abbott, Thos. Whitman, James Atchison, Wm. Manville, David Hidy, Wm. Hefflin, Rev. Dunn, Wm. McCullough, Mattie Vandevere, William Perdue, David Boswell, V. R. Miller and J. A. Wood. The officers of the church are: John Christman, S. E. Wright and Thos. Hanley, Trustees; Wm. Horniday. Treasurer; Ed. Kitterman, Clerk.

BLUFFTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The First Christian church, of Bluffton, Ind., was organized April, 1883, by Revs. W. D. Samuel, D. W. Jones, Jennie Jones and C. V. Strickland, with sixty charter members. The present membership numbers 130, whose estimated wealth is valued at $50,000, and among whom may be named, John Vore, John Galyean, J. M. and LaVerna Brown, J. P. Reynolds and wife, Flora Richey, Jennie Fulton, Henry and Rosa Johnson, Mrs. Hixon, Emma Koch, D. A. Evers and wife, Ellen Whitman, Mrs. Bowman, Florian Heche and wife, and G. F. Markley. The church is a modern frame structure, convenient in size and arrangement and is valued at $3,000. The present officers of the church are Daniel Nestler, J. M. Brown, G. A. Herbst and D. A. Evers, trustees; G. F. Markley, treasurer, and S. E. Whitman, clerk. Ministers who have served the church as pastors are as follows: W. D. Samuel, C. V. Strickland, K. E. West, Thomas Brandon, B. F. Rapp, John T. Newhouse, James Ulery, J. W. Bolton, R. W. Page, G. R. Hammond, J. M. Miller and R. R. Shoemaker.

MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH,

Merriam, Noble County, Indiana.

BEUNA VISTA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Is located at Linn Grove, Adams county, Ind. It was organized on May 29, 1881, by Revs. W. D. Samuel, David Hidy, and and C. V. Strickland, with seventeen charter members. The present membership is 60, prominent among whom are, John Hall and wife, Lorenzo Dunbar and wife, John W. Christman and wife, J. W. Cowens and wife, Alice Runyon, Ella Linn, Darliska Dunbar, Henry Morrow, Jefferson Dunbar and wife, Margaret Runyon, Anna Miller and Ella Hall. The estimated wealth of the membership is about $30,000. The church building is a comfortable frame structure valued at $800. The following ministers have served the church, W. D. Samuel, 1881-85; K. E. West, 1885-86; David Davenport, 1886-87; R. L. Amber, 1887-88; Mattie Vandevere, 1888-91; W. H. Turney, June 1892 to August 1894; W. W. Stuart, 1894-95; W. G. Parker, 1895-96; J. M. Rittgers, 1896-99; Samuel Frantz, 1899 to the present time. The present officers of the church are, John Hall, Benjamin Nichols and Jefferson Dunbar, trustees; Henry Morrow and Benjamin Nichols, deacons; Viola Dunbar, clerk.

BROADWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Elder Philip Zeigler, of Wolfe Lake, Ind., entered Sparta township, Noble county, Ind., to visit some families and take subscriptions for the *Herald of Gospel Liberty*, and incidentally left an appointment to preach in a small school house in the Ohlwine neighborhood. Other appointments and a protracted meeting at the home of Samuel Ohlwine followed. And on June 5, 1858, the organization of a Christian church was effected, which was known as the Sparta Christian church until July, 1877, when by vote of the church, the name was changed to the Broadway Christian church. The present membership of the church is 75. Rev. A. J. Iden, of Lewistown, Ill., is a member of the church. The estimated wealth of the members is placed at $16,000. The present church house was built in 1872, and is located in Sparta township, Noble county, Ind. It is a substantial brick structure valued at $1500. The present officers of the church are, Samuel Ohlwine, William B. Knapp and Jasper Gerkin, trustees, and Cecelia Gerkin, church clerk. The following pastor's have served the church: Philip Zeigler, 1858-66; Peter Winebrenner, 1866, '71 and '74-79; Thomas Whitman, 1871-74 and '82-88; David Hidy, 1879-80; Jacob Rittenhouse, 1880-82; J. W. Bolton, 1888-90; James

Atchison, 1890-92; J. J. Copeland, 1892 to January 1895, the time of his death; W. D. Samuel served from August to December, 1895; C. C. Tarr, 1897-99; Jonathan Dipboy, 1899-01.

BELLVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located in Jefferson township, Huntington county, Ind., was organized March 5, 1888, by Elders Alvin Morris, Henry Flora and Marvin Ebert with twenty-five charter members. The present membership is 61. Rev. W. W. Stuart, now of Hoppertown, Mich., and Rev. Eli Burkett, of Warren, are members of this church, as are also the parents of the former, Brother and Sister Joseph Stuart. The church property is a frame structure valued at $1000 and upon which needed repairs will soon be made. Ministers who have served the church as pastors are, Alvin Morris, 2½ years; Henry Flora, 2 years; David W. Fowler, 1 year; W. W. Stuart and E. First, jointly, 1½ years; C. C. Tarr, 1 year; R. W. Page, 2 years; J. A. Wood, 1 year; Mary G. Rheubottom, 2 years; Mrs. M. A. Tompkins, 1 year. C. V. Strickland is the present pastor. The present officers of the church are Emanuel and James M. Hart, deacons; James L. Johnson, elder; Wm. Dillon, Emanuel Hart and Charles Wiley, trustees; Gertie Ellis, treasurer, and Eli Keller, clerk. This church is one of the smallest bodies of the Conference but is wide awake, nicely located, has large congregations and a hopeful future.

COLLAMER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Is located in the town of Collamer, Whitley county, Ind. It was organized with ten charter members on January 7, 1877, by Revs. J. R. Hoag and M. R. Zerger. The church building is a modern brick structure, nicely furnished and the property is valued at $2,000. The present membership numbers 109, representing a wealth of about $30,000. Prominent among the membership may be named, Brother Faultner and wife, J. Dohner and wife, J. J. Karns and wife, B. F. Domer and wife, Brother Tresler and wife, and A. Parrett and wife. The church has been under the pastoral care of the following ministers: J. R. Hoag, 1877-80; Thomas Whitman, 1880-81; James Atchison, 1881-82; C. V. Strickland, 1882-83; David Hidy, 1883-87, and 1891-92, and 1895-00; Jennie Jones, 1887-88; Robert L. Amber, 1889-90; David S. Boswell, 1890-91, and 1893-94; J. J. Copeland, 1892-93; J. M.

Miller, 1894-95; Samuel Frantz, 1900 to present time. The present officers of the church are, J. W. Dohner and Brother Faultner, deacons; J. Karnes, treasurer, and B. F. Domer, clerk.

CLEAR CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized July 19, 1856, with about twenty-five charter members, among whom were, Joseph and Lydia Farmer, John, Susan, Abraham, Ann Eliza, Jacob and Lena Kaylor, Hiram and Lucinda Rodgers, Louis and Mary A. Stacker, Abraham and Lucinda Irick, and Martha Gill. The church is located in Clear Creek township, Huntington county, six miles north of the City of Huntington and is composed of 60 loyal members. The church building is a comfortable frame valued at $1200, being the second one built. The combined wealth of the members, who are of the most part industrious farmers, is estimated at $60,000. The present officers are, Reuben H. Gill and Daniel Kaylor, deacons; William I. Steele, Frank Kaylor and Birtus Morrow, trustees; Willard Jones, clerk. Among the prominent members of the church are, R. H. and Martha Gill, Willard Miller and wife, Frank Kaylor, Daniel Kaylor and wife, Wm. I. Steele, wife and daughter Nettie, Birtus Morrow, Iva Morrow, M. G. Hubbartt and wife, Willard Jones and wife. The following ministers have served the church as pastors: Geo. Abbott, 1856-60; Philip Zeigler, 1863. The church became somewhat disorganized until about 1870 when Geo. Abbott reorganized the church and preached for it several years. S. McNeely, D. W. Fowler, Elder McGee and Elder Hoag served until 1875; Peter Winebrenner, 1875-1882; David Hidy, 1882-84; Wm. McClurg and Jennie Jones, 1885-86; Jennie Jones, 1886-88; Peter Winebrenner and William Perdue, 1889-90; Robert L. Amber and W. G. Parker, 1890-91; David Hidy, 1891:92; C. V. Strickland and Mary A. Strickland, 1892-93-94; V. R. Miller, 1894-97; W. J. Young, 1897-1901; M. M. Wiles, 1901 to the present time.

DUNFEE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized by Rev. Eliza Robinson, December 6, 1891, by uniting the South Coesse church, which was organized October 29, 1854, with a newly organized class in the village of Dunfee, Whitely county, Ind. There were about thirty charter members, while the present membership is composed of 75 loyal souls, among whom may be

named James Robinett, A. H. Bates, S. B. Stouder, James Vaughn, G. L. York, William Dine, H. A. Crawford, Sister Gorham, Martha Emrick, Mrs. Chas. Emrick and the following officers: William McWherter, James Robinett and F. W. Clark, trustees; J. W. Noyer and W. J. Esterline, deacons; F. W. Clark, treasurer and clerk; Etta Hickman and Minnie McWhirter, stewards. Rev. Eliza Robinson organized the church and now resides at Ft. Wayne. She is also a member of the church. The estimated combined wealth of the congregation is about $50,000. The church people have a comfortable frame house of worship and is valued at $1000. The following ministers have served the church as pastors: Eliza Robinson, 2 years; J. J. Copeland, 1½ years; C. V. Strickland, 6 months; V. R. Miller, 1 year; J. A. Wood, 4 years; and J. M. Rittgers, the present pastor, 2 years.

EEL RIVER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized with twenty-six charter members by Rev. Joseph Plummer, July 23, 1842. The church, a substantial frame structure, and valued at about $2000, is located north of Eel River in Kosciusko county, Ind. The present membership of the church numbers 121. Irene Brubaker is the church clerk. The following ministers served the church as pastors: John Plummer, Peter Bandy, Joseph Roberts, George Abbott, James Atchison, William Manville, David Hidy, Thos. Whitman, C. V. and Mary A. Strickland, V. R. Miller, David Boswell, W. W. Stuart and B. F. Kemp.

GOSHEN CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The First Christian church of Goshen was organized in the Mennonite hall at Goshen, Ind., March 26, 1886, with twenty-five charter members. Rev. V. R. Miller was chairman, and O. S. Crompton was secretary at the time of organization. The first trustees of the church were elected at this meeting, and consisted of Frank Burns, W. W. Butts, Solomon Ullery, O. S. Crompton and Wm. Miller. Prior to the time of organization, meetings were held in the Court House, Coliseum building and Mennonite hall. In 1886 the church purchased a lot on South Main street and erected an excellent frame structure at a cost of $2000. There has been a steady growth until the membership has reached an enrollment of 86. The church has been served since its organization by the following pastors: Revs.

Reason Davis, J. J. Copeland, Peter Winebrenner, David Hidy, V. R. Miller, W. G. Parker, Geo. E. Hicks, W. W. Stuart and G. R. Hammond, the present pastor. The old minutes of the church have been lost and with it many of the struggles and contentions which she has endured. Many of the original charter members of the church are yet living and are faithfully working in the interest of their beloved Zion, seeking the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom in the salvation of precious souls.

ELKHART CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Christian church at Elkhart, Ind., which is known in that city as the Riverside Christian church, was organized January 1, 1899, by Judge O. W. Whitelock, president of Eel River Conference, Rev. Mrs. M. A. Tompkins, Rev. Mrs. Mary A. Strickland and Rev. Peter Winebrenner with fifteen charter members. This church is a child of Conference, being its chief Conference missionary point. It is gradually becoming stronger and ere many years have elapsed it will be self-sustaining. Rev. G. R. Hammond, the present pastor, and Rev. Mrs. M. A. Tompkins are both members of the church, which now numbers 36 members. The present officers are, Goldie Wilson, clerk; Albert Wilson, H. W. Leininger and Henry J. Stauffer, trustees; M. A. Tompkins, treasurer. The pastors who have served this church are Rev. Mary A. Strickland with Rev. M. A. Tompkins, assistant, from January 1, to August, 1899, and Rev. G. R. Hammond to the present time. The church has connected with it an association composed of persons not members of the church, but who are helpful to the church in even more than a material sense. The church house is a beautiful brick structure of modern and convenient form and is valued at $4000.

HUNTINGTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized by Revs. George Abbott and Peter Winebrenner, May 23, 1891, in the old Tabernacle Baptist church at Huntington, Indiana, with twenty-seven charter members, of whom fifteen are now members of the church, while seven have been dropped from the roll and five have died. The present membership numbers 206, prominent among whom may be named, O. W. Whitelock, president of Christian Publishing Association and Eel River Conference, also ex-president of Indiana State Christian Conference, J. F. Barnes, secretary of Eel River Christian

Conference; Revs. C. V. and Mary A. Strickland, W. W. Sutton, Jacob Fry, J. P. Gusman, Jonathan Whitelock, and Rev. J. M. Rittgers. The present place of workship is a very old frame building which stands on a fairly good lot. Besides this, however, the church owns two good lots bought at a cost of $1500 where a new church is soon to be built, and another tract of land which has been deeded the church as a donation. The total valuation of all present property is $2700. The following pastors have served the church: Rev. Geo. Abbott from the time of organization to August, 1891. Rev. M. A. Strickland was then chosen as pastor by the Eel River Conference and was accepted by the church. She was paid by Conference for half time, $250, for one year. She with her husband, C. V. Strickland, remained the pastors until August, 1898, when W. J. Young was chosen pastor and still remains in charge at this date. The present officers are: James P. Gusman, William H. Stewart and O. W. Whitelock, trustees; Jonathan Whitelock and Jacob Fry, deacons; J. F. Barnes, treasurer; John H. Stewart, clerk.

KELSO CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located in the village of Kelso, Huntington county, Ind., was organized in the Majenica school house, December 31, 1871, by Revs. George and Nelson Abbott with twenty-six charter members. The present membership is about 140, prominent among whom are Levi Craig and wife, Thaddeus Tuttle, James Fellabom and wife, Jerome Minnear and wife, D. F. Ware and wife, Eli Smuck and wife, W. S. Gill and wife, George Poorman and wife, Alpheus Poorman and wife, Alex Waddell, Peter Rittenhouse and Mary J. Broom. The membership represents a wealth of about $58,100 and has a good frame house of worship valued at $1000. The church has an excellent choir under the leadership of Miss Ella Craig, which is frequently called upon to sing for funerals at different churches in the community. The present officers are James Fellabom, D. F. Ware and Jerome Minnear, deacons; Levi Craig, Eli Smuck and T. J. Tuttle, trustees; Alexander Waddell and Geo. W. Gill, Clerk. The pastors who have served the church are as follows: George and Nelson Abbott, 1871-72; Nelson Abbott, 1872-73; Jacob Rittenhouse, 1873-76; D. W. Jones, 1876-77; William Heflin, 1877-79; Jennie Jones, 1879-81-83-86; William McClurg, 1881-83; William Perdue, 1886-88; Peter Winebrenner, 1888-92; W. D. Samuel, 1892-95; R. W. Page, 1895-99; V. R. Miller, 1899-00; M. W. Wiles, 1900-02.

LEESBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located in the village of Leesburg, Kosciusko county, Ind., was organized November 28, 1869, by Revs. George Abbott and David W. Fowler. The church now numbers about 60 loyal members who worship in a substantial brick house valued at about $2500. The present officers of the church are Eli Goshorn, Anderson Stookey and J. W. Hern, trustees. Addie Baxter, Ida Irwin, Eli Goshorn and John Stookey, stewarts; J. W. Hern, clerk and treasurer; Eli Goshorn, deacon; Mrs. Baugher, deaconess; Jessie Whiteleather, organist, and Rosa Goodman, assistant. Among the ministers who served the church as pastors are George Abbott, D. W. Fowler, Thos. Whitman, Wm. Manville, Peter Winebrenner, C. V. Strickland, W. D. Samuel, Rev. Hines, Rev. McCullough, J. W. Bolton, Robert Amber, V. R. Miller, W. W. Stuart, A. L. West, B. F. Kemp, J. Dipboy and M. G. Rheubottom.

MILLWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located in the village of Millwood, Kosciusko county, Ind., was organized in the Millwood school house, March 1, 1856, by Rev. Geo. Abbott, with thirteen charter members. The church now numbers about 90 members who worship in a commodious frame church valued at $1000. Revs. W. B. Jones, D. N. Miller, and Abraham Burkert, all deceased, were members of this church, the two last named being the first deacons. The estimated wealth of the membership is placed at $50,000. The present officers are W. B. Anglin and Chauncey Thomas, deacons; Jeremiah Zentz and W. B. Anglin, trustees; W. J. Miller, treasurer and clerk. Prominent among the membership may be named Chauncey and Mary Thomas, Clarence Gearhart, Harrison Biggs, Ellen Anglin, Wesley Stackhouse, Matilda Anglin, Hiram Anglin, Amanda and Grace Jennings. The church has been served by the following pastors: Geo. Abbott, 10 or 12 years; Wm. S. Manville, 4 years; S. McNeely, 4 years; D. W. Fowler, 2 years; V. R. Miller, 2 years; David Boswell, 2 years; W. W. Stuart, 1 year; P. Winebrenner, 2 years; A. E. Kemp, 2 years; J. Dipboy, 1 year; J. M. Miller is the present pastor. There are four other churches within a radius of three miles, yet this church is in a flourishing condition, sustaining well attended Sunday schools and prayer meetings.

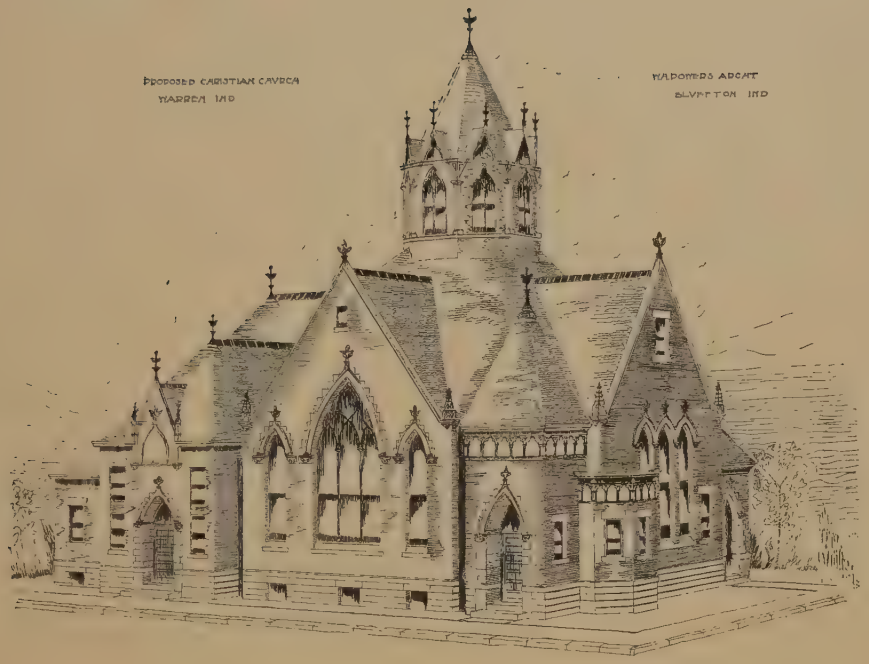
MARION CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

The Christian Temple, located at Marion, Grant county, Ind., is

one of the finest churches owned by the Christians. It is a beautiful brick structure valued at $35,000. The church at Marion was organized by Elder Hallet Barbour, May 2, 1839, with the following charter members: John and Susannah Moore, James and Mary Stackhouse, Elizabeth Oppy, Thomas Wall, Case Broderick, Mary Marshall, Lydia Alder, and Nancy Broderick. To this number have been added others until the church now numbers 251 members. The present officers of the church are, S. S. Newhouse, pastor; John W. Miles, clerk; Joseph F. Carmichael, treasurer; W. C. Webster, James Long, Peter Eshelman, J. F. Carmichael and O. H. Keller, trustees. The pastors who have served this church are among the most prominent in the denomination. They are, Hallet Barbour, John McInturf, James Stackhouse, D. W. Fowler, Thomas A. Brandon, A. W. Tripp, Josiah P. Watson, James Maple, Asa W. Coan, C. W. Garroute, Alva Morrill, G. B. Merritt, Geo. D. Black, T. M. McWhinney, Byron W. Long and S. S. Newhouse.

MERRIAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized by Elder P. Banta, June 8, 1843, four miles southeast of Wolf Lake, in Noble township, Noble county, Ind. Number of charter members, twelve. Present membership, 235. Church house is located one-half mile northwest of Merriam, in Noble township, in Noble county, and is a substantial brick building, which with land and parsonage, is worth about $4000. The names of pastors who served the church are as follows: P. Banta, Rev. Batteral, J. Thomas, Jas. Atchison, Joseph Roberts, Thomas Whitman, Philip Zeigler, James Gregory, Peter Winebrenner, David Hidy, Geo. Abbott, D. S. Boswell, V. R. Miller, J. W. Bolton and R. W. Page, present pastor. Ministers who are now members of the church and where they now reside: Elder Peter Winebrenner, now living at Merriam, Ind. Present officers of church and address of clerk: Deacons, brothers J. Lock, Wm. Ravely, H. Rench; trustees, T. M. Ott, John R. Young, J. Lock; clerk, Mina Young, postoffice address, Merriam. Names of prominent members of church, J. P. Kitt, Sarah Ott, J. Lock and wife, T. M. Ott and wife, D. King and wife, J. R. Young and wife, D. S. Winebrenner and wife, J. Ott and wife, Lura Kitt, Eli Smith and wife, Elizabeth Stangland, James Winebrenner and wife, Oscar Wilkins, Wm. Ravely, Omer Stangland, Elder Winebrenner and wife, John Kepford and wife, Jasper Ott and wife, Barbara Lindsey, Maggie Stangland, Maggie Gandy, Wm. Zeigler and wife, Sophia Seymore, Jane Ott, Eli Ott and wife,



WARREN CHRISTIAN CHURCH,

(Now Under Construction)

Warren, Huntington County, Indiana.

Fred Ott and wife, Henry Rench and wife, Sarah Kitt, Mother Clark, Cynthia Gandy, Ida Kitt, Jacob Winebrenner and many others that we have not space to mention. The estimated wealth of the membership is $150,000. Charter members: The church was organized with twelve charter members, viz: D. Winebrenner, Barbara Winebrenner, Peter Winebrenner, Elizabeth Sanford, John McMeans, Eliza McMeans, Miss Haynes, Mother and Father Haynes, Isabelle Haynes, Wm. Pricket, Hester Ann Boner. Two charter members yet living are Peter Winebrenner and Hester Boner.

MURRAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized in the village of Murray, Wells county, Ind., August 27, 1858, by Elder Samuel Minnich with forty charter members. The present membership numbers about 70, prominent among whom may be named J. R. Harvey, B. F. Nash, Ephraim Lutz, Carrie Brickley, Louisa J. Stafford, Maria Nash, Joseph Sonner, Della Sonner and others. Rev. J. J. Markley, one of our able ministers, is a resident member of this church. The church building is a frame structure valued at about $500. J. R. Harvey and Wm. Shady are deacons, and N. E. Stafford is the church clerk. Among the ministers who have served this church as pastor are Samuel Minnich, P. Zeigler, James Atchison, Jacob Rittenhouse, Peter Winebrenner, Thomas Whitman, D. W. Jones, J. J. Markley, Mattie Vandevere, J. M. Rittgers and V. R. Miller.

MILLERSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Is located in the town of Millersburg, Elkhart county, Ind. The church was organized by Elder Reason Davis, December 16, 1886, with seventeen charter members. The membership now numbers 80, among whom are many loyal, active workers in the Master's cause. The church has a beautiful house of worship built of brick and valued at $2500. The following pastors have served the church: Revs. Reason Davis, Geo. Abbott, D. W. Fowler, J. J. Copeland, W. W. Stuart, C. H. Marks, C. C. Tarr, and Mary G. Rheubottom. Rev. J. W. Bolton is the present pastor. Rev. D. B. Atkinson of U. C. college has been a member of this church. The estimated combined wealth of the membership is $25,000. The present officers are, W. H. Rogers and John Hull, deacons; W. H. Rogers, treasurer; A. J. Mays, clerk.

NEW MADISON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Is located in the village of Servia, Wabash county, Ind. The church was organized by Rev. James Atchison, July 30, 1849. The present membership numbers 97, whose combined wealth is about $35,000. The church building is a substantial brick structure valued at $2500. J. Schroll and wife, R. Shaupitt and wife, J. Foust and wife are among the most prominent members. Rev. Jesse Fannin, who died last January, was also a member of this church. The ministers who have had the pastoral care of the church are as follows: James Atchison, George Abbott, Thomas Whitman, David Hidy, Rev. Burkett, Jacob Rittenhouse, W. D. Samuel, D. S. Boswell, Peter Winebrenner and J. A. Wood. Present officers of the church are, R. Shaupitt and J. Walker, deacons; John Foust, clerk.

NORTH MANCHESTER CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

On February 15, 1884, in the Lutheran church of North Manchester, Ind., Revs. George Abbott, James Atchison, David Hidy, and Peter Winebrenner organized the First Christian church of North Manchester with thirty-two charter members. The church steadily grew until she now has 151 members, whose estimated wealth is placed at $40,000. The place of worship is a substantial brick structure valued at $3000. A number of our ministers have been members of this church and have gone to their reward in heaven. They are, Rev. J. W. Connery who died at North Manchester, 1886; Rev. R. L. Amber who died at Urbana, 1895; Rev. George Abbott who died at North Manchester, 1894. Those who are still living are Revs. P. L. Ryker and W. W. Riley, of Michigan, and Rev. David Hidy, E. T. Spohn and J. A. Wood, who reside here. Ministers who served the church as pastors are as follows: David Hidy, 1884-86; P. L. Ryker, 1886-87; W. D. Samuel, 1887-91; J. F. Ullery, 1891-April 1894; R. L. Amber, 1894 April 1895; W. W. Riley, January 1896-May 1897; B. F. Kemp, 1897-99; E. T. Spohn, 1899-00. J. A. Wood is the present pastor. The officers of the church are A. Urshel and James Winesburg, deacons; Rosa Baker, clerk; Andrew Urshel, treasurer; Elias Garber, M. Snideman and D. Hidy, trustees.

NORTH WEBSTER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located one and one-half miles southeast of the village of North

Webster, Kosciusko county, Ind., was organized by Rev. Jas. Atchison at Mock's school house, June 11, 1882, with fourteen charter members. The present membership numbers 93. Rev. Levi Marks is a member of this church, as was also Rev. J. J. Copeland, who died at Dunfee, January 30, 1895, and whose remains lie in the cemetery adjoining this church. The estimated wealth of the present membership is $64,000. The church property is a beautiful brick house of worship and is valued at about $1500. The church has been under the pastoral care of the following ministers: James Atchison from organization to August 1883; Jacob Rittenhouse, 1883-88; R. L. Amber, 1888-90; Peter Winebrenner, 1890-92; J. J. Copeland, 1892 to January 1895, the time of his death. The church then employed R. L. Amber for the remainder of the Conference year. He held the protracted meeting when his health failed. In April, 1895, the church employed Mattie Vandevere who completed the year; Thos. Whitman, 1895-96; C. C. Tarr, 1896-99; Jonathan Dipboy, 1899-01. Mary G. Rheubottom is the present pastor. The officers of the church are, Silas Huber, Jonathan Reed and Thomas Pentacost, trustees; Mrs. Silas Huber, clerk.

NORTH UNION CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized in the Disciple church, Aboite township, Allen county, Ind., February 10, 1889, by Rev. Eliza Robinson with fifty-five charter members. The present membership is 23, whose estimated wealth is about $15,000. The church building is a frame structure valued at about $300. The following ministers have served the church as pastors: Eliza Robinson, 6 years; W. W. Stuart, 2 years; C. C. Tarr, 1 year; Samuel Frantz, 3 years. The present officers are, J. H. Stouder, G. W. Black and Lewis Cartwright, trustees; N. B. Kennedy, clerk.

OLIVET CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Is located one mile north and one-half mile west of Linwood, Madison county, Ind. The church was organized in 1870 by Revs. J. R. Kobb and P. W. Jellison with about forty charter members. The present membership numbers 56, prominent among whom may be named, Thos. Ballard, John C., Kate and Isaac May, Mary M. Hallenbeck, Mary A. Smith, Levi Stanley, Jacob Stanley and James Alexander. The estimated wealth of the members is about $30,000. The church house is a frame structure valued at about $1000. The ministers who served

the church are as follows: J. R. Kobb, 1870-88 and 1892-94; W. G. Parker, 1887-89; Geo. Abbott, 1889-90; Frank Burkett, 1892-94; Taylor Jackman, 1894-95; Rosa Lee, 1895-96; C. V. Strickland, 1896-97; R. F. Malott, 1898-1900; M. A. Tompkins, 1900-01. J. W. Bolton is the present pastor. The officers of the church are as follows: J. C. May, elder; Levi Stanley and James Alexander, deacons; Allen Williams, M. L. Shores and Thos. Groendyke, trustees; Mrs. Clarinda May, treasurer; A. O. Cripe, clerk.

PLUM TREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized in the Provines school house, Salamonie township, Huntington county, Ind., January 19, 1866, by Revs. Richard Hultz, Jonathan Dipboy, A. C. Williams, Asa Pratt, David Bowers and Peter Winebrenner, with forty charter members. The church, a good brick structure, valued at $1600, now stands in the village of Plum Tree, Huntington county, Ind. The church now numbers 70 members, whose combined wealth is estimated at $50,000. Prominent among these may be named, W. P. Hubartt and wife, J. J. Blair and wife, E. A. Wysong and wife, J. W. Wysong and wife, Albert Sparks and wife, Augusta Harden and Mary Smith. Rev. Benj. Mapes, deceased, Rev. George Hubbartt, of the Miami Reserve Conference, P. O., Majenica, Ind., Dr. Wm. McClurg, now of Kokomo, and O. W. Whitelock, of Huntington, have been members of this church. The present officers of the church are, M. M. Souers. M. A. Ruse and J. W. Wysong, trustees; J. J. Blair and Roscoe Gill, deacons; W. P. Hubartt, clerk. Ministers who have served this church are as follows: George Hubbartt and E. W. Hammond, George Boswell, Jonathan Dipboy, F. Van Ness, U. Z. Kimble, Wm. Heflin, Wm. McClurg, W. G. Parker, C. V. Strickland, Robert Amber, D. S. Boswell, J. W. Dipboy, W. D. Samuel, Samuel Frantz and J. M. Rittgers.

PAW PAW CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located in Paw Paw township, Wabash county, Ind., was organized February 19, 1848, by Rev. J. Spencer with fifteen charter members. This is one of the best churches in the Conference and numbers 180 members, whose estimated wealth is about $75,000. Rev. R. L. Amber, who departed this life June 5, 1895, at the age of 35, his brother Rev. Joseph Amber, who also went to heaven September 7, 1898, aged 36 years, were members of this church. Rev. Riley Freeman, who still

lives at the advanced age of 83, is also a member. The congregation worships in a commodious frame church valued at $1000. During its history the following ministers have preached for the church: J. Spencer, P. Zeigler, George Abbott, Thomas Whitman, Jacob Rittenhouse, David Hidy, W. D. Samuel, S. McNeely, K. E. West, W. G. Parker, J. J. Copeland, A. L. Marks, R. W. Page, W. W. Stuart and M. M. Wiles. Among the prominent members may be named Martha Durnbaugh, Permelia Amber, Margery Long, Emma Vroman, George Jeffrey, Tillie Freeman, Saleng Dunfee, Christopher Gurtner and wife, Jennie Hetzler, Julia Purdy and Linna Amber. The present officers are, John Long and Albert Scott, deacons; Wm. Flora, John Groshon and James Vroman, trustees; Schuyler Long, treasurer; Samuel Amber, church clerk.

PLEASANT HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

One of our most prosperous organizations, was organized in 1846, about one-half mile south of the present site, which is in York township, Noble county, Ind. The present membership of 118 have a new and commodious brick house in which to worship, having been built in 1900 at a cost of $2500. Rev. Jacob Rittenhouse, who died at Wawaka in the spring of 1900, was a member of this church. The following ministers have been pastors of the church, James Atchison, Joseph Roberts, Peter Winebrenner, Jacob Rittenhouse, J. R. Hoag, A. Iden, C. H. Marks, W. W. Stuart, C. C. Tarr and Mary G. Rheubottom. The combined wealth of the membership is estimated at $146,000. The present officers of the church are, Charles Pollock and Andrew Peffer, trustees; George W. Smith, Jr., N. B. Hathaway, Riley Smith, deacons; George W. Smith, clerk.

PLEASANT GROVE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Near North Manchester, Ind., was organized May 11, 1845, by Elders James Atchison and Joseph Roberts in the Pleasant Grove school house which stood on the land now owned by Bro. John Bowen. The church of 20 members was taken into Eel River Conference at its session at Leesburg, 1845. Starting with sixteen charter members the church has had a steady growth and now has 70 members. The only surviving charter members are Reuben and Vianna Abbott. The first officers of the church were Joseph Roberts, pastor; Nathan Sellers and John Abbott, recently deceased, deacons; Wm. H. West, clerk. The present

church building is a substantial brick structure valued at $2000 and stands just one mile west of where the church was organized. During its history, this church has had a number of able pastors, those serving the church are named in order as follows: Joseph Roberts, James Atchison, Halleck Barber, Abraham Sneathen, Philip Zeigler, Thomas Whitman, George Abbott, William Manville, Wm. McClurg, David Fowler, Rev. McGee, Abraham Tabler, Moses McDaniel, George Patten, Jacob Rittenhouse, Rev. Spencer, Rev. Baldwin, W. D. Samuel, Henry Turney, Robert Amber, David Hidy, C. V. Strickland, V. R. Miller, W. W. Stuart, C. C. Tarr, J. A. Wood, and the present pastor, B. F. Kemp. The present officers of the church are William Johnson, deacon; John Bowen, Charles Simonton and Wm. Feagler, trustees; Harvey Ruse, treasurer; B. F. Humbarger, clerk. The church is composed of an excellent class of farmers whose estimated wealth is $70,000.

ROCK CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located at Rock Creek Center, Huntington county, Ind., was organized in October, 1899, by Rev. J. M. Rittgers, Rev. David Hidy, Rev. J. A. Wood, O. W. Whitelock, president, and J. F. Barnes, secretary of Eel River Christian Conference, with thirty-six charter members. The church building is an excellent frame valued at $800. The present membership numbers 36, among whom are Wm. McClurg, D. A. White, James Thrailkill and Mrs. R. J. White. The present officers are, James Hubbartt, W. M. Keller and W. M. McClurg, trustees; A. D. White and James Thrailkill, deacons; Mrs. R. J. White, treasurer. Since its organization the church has had but two pastors, J. M. Rittgers, who succeeded in forming the organization, and V. R. Miller.

SPRING HILL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located about four miles northwest of the City of Ligonier, Noble county, Ind., was organized March 2, 1869, by Rev. J. N. Rittenhouse with thirty-one charter members. Elder Rittenhouse continued to preach for the church for five years. Dr. P. L. Wert, of Waterford Mills, then took charge and labored one year, when Rittenhouse again took charge, continuing five years more. The following pastors then succeeded: 1880, Thomas Whitman; 1881, S. McNeely; 1882, W. S. Manville; 1884, Jacob Rittenhouse; 1886, Lewis Himes; 1887, Reason

Davis, commonly known as "Stormy Davis," seeing the condition of the church, reorganized with fifteen charter members, to which he succeeded in adding 32 more; in 1889, no regular pastor, but J. J. Copeland and Elder McCullough supplied; 1891-92 and 1894-96, V. R. Miller; 1892, George Abbott; 1893, D. W. Fowler; 1896, C. H. Marks; 1898-1900, W. W. Stuart; 1900-1901, C. C. Tarr; David Hidy is the present pastor. The church was first organized in the Buzzard's Glory school house. When a new school house was built the old one was bought, repaired and used for church purposes until 1881 when a union church house was erected. The church has had a steady growth until there are now 62 faithful members. The officers are, Isaac Witmer and Henry Grimes, deacons; Wm. Eaton, George J. Growcock, honorary deacons; James Growcock and Isaac Growcock, stewards; James Growcock, clerk.

SIX MILE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized by Rev. Hallet Barber in 1838, about one mile south of the present location on Six Mile Creek, Harrison township, Wells county, Ind. The present church membership is about 120, prominent among whom are A. T. Studabaker and wife, W. D. Markley and wife, H. C. Markley and wife, Simon Bickel and wife, A. J. Smith and wife, H. S. Van Emon and wife, and R. D. Chalfant and wife. The estimated combined wealth of the membership is about $200,000. James Greer, James Atchison, both deceased, and Thomas Whitman have been members of this church. The church building is a modest frame structure valued at $1200. The pastors who have served this church are as follows: Hallet Barber, 5 years; James Atchison, about 22 years; Peter Winebrenner, 2 years; Wm. Manville, 2 years; J. J. Markley, 1 year; D. W. Fowler, 1 year; C. V. Strickland, 2 years; W. D. Samuel, 5 years; K. E. West, 2 years; T. A. Brandon, 2 years; Frank Mosier, 1 year; A. L. West, 1 year; Rev. Turney, 2 years; W. G. Parker, 1 year; J. M. Rittgers, 2 years; J. E. Etter, 1 year; J. M. Miller, 2 years, and J. W. Bolton, the present pastor. The officers of the church are as follows: A. T. Studabaker, H. S. Van Emon and W. D. Markley, trustees; A. J. Smith and H. S. Van Emon, deacons; O. P. Markley, treasurer; R. D. Chalfant, clerk. The land on which the church was organized belonged to Thomas Van Horn, and the land where the church now stands belonged to and was donated to the organization by Adam Miller.

SIDNEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located at Sidney, Jackson township, Kosciusko county, Ind., was organized by Elder Peter Winebrenner, Elder David Hidy and George Amber, November 9, 1886, with sixteen charter members. The church now numbers 60 members. Rev. John M. Miller, now pastor at Wakarusa, is a member of this church. The pastors who have served the church are as follows: David Hidy, November 9, 1886, to August, 1888; C. V. Strickland, 1888-90; Mary A. Strickland, 1890-91; James Atchison, 1891-92; Peter Winebrenner, 1892-93; Rev. Ullery, 1893-94; W. G. Parker, 1894-96, also 1898-1900; V. R. Miller, 1896-98; David Hidy, 1900-01. Rev. W. G. Parker is the present pastor. The officers of the church are George McConnell and John Miller, deacons; Sister Whitman, treasurer; W. Messimore, clerk. The combined wealth of the membership is estimated at $15,000. The church building is a good frame structure valued at $600.

SPARTA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

One of the most influential churches in the Conference is located about one-half mile south of Kimmel, Sparta township, Noble county, Ind. It was organized December 5, 1878, by Rev. Thomas Whitman in the Sparta school house with twenty charter members, seventeen of whom are still living, those deceased being, Jane Wead and Mesdames W. H. LaFong and Wm. Fenton. The organization worships in a beautiful brick structure valued, with grounds, at $3000. There are about 140 members whose estimated wealth is about $85,000. Rev. George Gloyd is a resident member of the church. The following pastors have served the church: Thomas Whitman 7 years, Peter Winebrenner alternating with Whitman, 3 years; George Abbott, 2 years; Reason Davis, 1 year; David Hidy, 9 years; V. R. Miller, 2 years; W. G. Parker, 1 year, and R. W. Page, the present pastor, 2 years. The church officers are, Elisha Blackman, George Gloyd and W. H. LaFong, trustees; George Gloyd and Harrison LaFong, deacons; Mrs. J. E. Crothers, clerk. The church is free from debt and in a prosperous condition, having a well equipped Sabbath School, Y. P. S. C. E., and a ladies' band of Willing Workers.

SALAMONIE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized near the present site of the church in the southwestern

SPARTA CHRISTIAN CHURCH,

Near Kimmel, Noble County, Indiana.

part of Huntington county, Ind., in 1848, by Revs. George Abbott and E. W. Wood, with about thirty charter members. The church building is a substantial frame and is valued at $1000. This church has been served by the following ministers: E. W. Wood, George Abbott, Rev. Phillips, P. Zeigler, Nelson Abbott, David Hidy, Uziah Kimble, Rev. Dunn, Rev. McGee, Wm. Heflin, Jacob Rittenhouse, W. G. Parker, J. A. Wood and Samuel Frantz. The church now has about 35 loyal members. Rev. D. A. McGinnis, one of our pioneer exhorters is a resident member of this church. Mrs. Ica Hollett is the present church clerk, and Rev. Samuel Frantz, of North Manchester, is the pastor.

SHILO CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located in the town of Swayzee, Grant county, Ind., was organized December 26, 1883, by Rev. Thomas J. Puckett. The membership at present numbers 90, whose estimated combined wealth is about $35,000. Rev. D. S. Boswell and Rev. Franklin Smith are both members of this church. Other prominent members are, Edward and Hettie Bryant, Isaiah, Sarah and Luetta Richardson, Isaac and Sarah Gentice, Wm. and Mary Gown, Chas. and Sarah Martin, Henry, Rosa and Elizabeth Marshall, Elias and Elizabeth Nickam, Mary Chesterson, James and Rebecca Galbreath, Della Usher, Abraham and Mary Daniels. The church property is a frame structure valued at $600.00. The following ministers have served the church as pastors: Thomas J. Puckett, J. J. Copeland, George Abbott, David S. Boswell, W. G. Parker, John Cobb, Taylor Jackman, Wm. Parnell, P. Winebrenner, Joseph Kinder, Mattie Vandevere, Frank Burkett and E. D. Simons. The present officers are, Isaac Gentice, Isaiah Richardson, trustees; Marion Ebert, treasurer; Henry Marshall and Charles W. Martin, deacons; Benj. Thompson, clerk.

THORN CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized November 23, 1868, near Loon Lake, six miles north of Columbia City, Ind., by Rev. A. Burkett. There were twenty-eight charter members of which number four are still living. The present membership is about 60, whose estimated wealth is about $35,000. The church building is a frame structure valued at $800. Ministers who have served this church as pastor are as follows: A. Burkett, 1868-74; Rev. Appleton, 1874-76; Jacob Rittenhouse, 1876-78; Levi Marks,

D. A. McGinnis and Rev. Conrey, 1878-85; George Abbott, 1885-1888; J. W. Bolton, 1888-91; David Boswell, 1891-92; Wm. Perdue, 1892-93; Eliza Robinson, 1893-95; Peter Winebrenner, 1895-98; V. R. Miller, 1898-99; W. W. Stuart and Peter Winebrenner, 1899-1900; Peter Winebrenner, 1900-01; Hiley Baker to present time. The present officers of the church are, Milo Lawrence, John Born and Aaron Appleton, trustees; John Born, treasurer; W. S. Chapman, clerk.

UNION CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located in Richland township, Whitley county, Ind., was organized in 1845 by James Atchison in what was known as the Hand school house, which stood about a mile west of the present location of the church property which is a frame building valued at $1000, and was built in 1867. The old records of the church being lost, it is difficult to give many facts prior to the year 1867. However, the church was served most of the 22 years intervening between its organization and 1867, by Elders James Atchison, Thomas Whitman and P. Zeigler. During this time John Hand and Silas Atchison were deacons, and Anthony Atchison acted as clerk. The pastors who subsequently served the church were Thomas Whitman, W. B. Jones, Peter Winebrenner, W. S. Manville, Rev. Himes, David Hidy, W. G. Parker, S. McNeely and Levi Marks. Rev. David Hidy is the present pastor. The church now numbers 100 and represent a combined wealth of about $70,000. The annual Cnference was held with this church in 1858, 1869, 1880 and 1896. The present officers are as follows: J. F. McConnell, Thos. Bayman and Jacob Barnhart, trustees; Geo. W. Webster and C. L. Cone, deacons; J. F. McConnell, treasurer; C. L. Cone, clerk. A number of ministers have been members of this church, Jas. Atchison, who died at Pierceton, 1895; Joseph Roberts, who died in Minnesota; Andrew Wilson, who died some 36 years ago, and William Miles, who died in the community in 1875; David Hidy, Thomas Whitman, Martin Hathaway, besides several others, who afterwards preached for other denominations.

WATERFORD MILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Though one of the smallest churches in the Conference, is by no means the youngest. It was organized at Benton, Elkhart county, Ind., October 9, 1842, by Elder Peter Banta with seventeen charter members.

The present church is located in the village of Waterford Mills, Elkhart county, Ind., and has a membership of 36, prominent among which are Aurora Loughner, G. W. and Eliza Benner, S. G. and Eliza Howell, Maria Hippensteel, Susan Stahl, Henry Holtzinger, G. S. and Amanda Castetter, Samuel Stuart, L. A. Richards, Martin and Cathrine Higgins and Mary Violette. Ministers who have been members are Joseph Roberts and James Atchison, deceased, and V. R. Miller, now of Goshen. The church building is a brick structure and the property is valued at $750. The following ministers have had charge of the church: Peter Winebrenner, 8 years; Amos Vansickle, 1 year; Thos. Whitman, 3 years; James Atchison, 6 years; Jonah Dunn, 2 years; V. R. Miller, 1 year; Moses McDaniel, 2 years; Wm. S. Manville, 2 years; George Abbott, 5 years; J. J. Copeland, 2 years; J. W. Bolton, 2 years; Jacob Rittenhouse, 2 years; W. G. Parker, 5 years; Franklin Briggs, 1 year; Joseph Roberts, 2 years; Philip Zeigler, 3 years. The officers of the church are as follows: G. W. Benner, Henry Holtzinger and Martin Higgins, trustees; G. W. Benner and Samuel G. Howell, deacons; Lydia A. Richards, treasurer; Eliza A. Benner, clerk.

WARREN CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Was organized in Warren, Ind., October 22, 1871, by Elder D. W. Fowler with nine charter members. Present membership is 285. Church house is located in Warren, Huntington county, Ind., and is a brick building at present valued at $3000. Names of pastors who served the church and the years they served are as follows: D. W. Fowler, October, 1871, to August, 1876; David Hidy, 1876-80; C. V. Strickland, 1880-81; James Atchison, 1881, to April, 1882; Elder Riker, April, 1882, to August, 1882; T. C. Diltz, 1882-83; J. L. Puckett, 1883-86; William Perdue, 1886-87; J. L. Puckett, 1887, to February, 1888; David Hidy, 1888-89; Peter Winebrenner, 1889-90; David Boswell, 1890-91; W. D. Samuel, 1891-95; James Maple, 1895-97; J. E. Etter, 1897, to present time. Names of ministers who are now or have been members of the church are: C. C. Morris, deceased; George Hubbard, now residing on his farm in Jefferson township, Huntington county, Ind., William Perdue, living in Warren, Ind. The present officers of the church are: J. E. Etter, pastor; J. W. Beard and J. W. Griffith, deacons; H. K. Groves, treasurer; George S. Good, J. J. Roudebush and Henry Mallow, trustees; John H. Thompson, clerk; J. G. Ray, choir leader. The membership has had in its past history, a host who were

prominent church workers and useful members of society. At present there are many loyal and most estimable members. The estimated combined wealth of the membership is $240,000. Sister Roxaline Hultz, a venerable charter member, is still living, and if spared until June 16, 1902, will be 93 years of age. The first deacons were John Shaw and Daniel Mossburg. First trustees were Silas Jones, S. L. Good and Robert Sprowl. The society has at present (June, 1902) under construction a new $15,000 house of worship. The funds having been subscribed, the building will likely be completed during the summer and autumn. The work is being wisely and efficiently directed by Brother L. S. Jones, chairman of the building committee. The other members of the executive committee are J. E. Etter, secretary; J. L. Priddy, treasurer; George S. Good and J. W. Beard.

WAKARUSA CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Located in the thriving town of Wakarusa, Elkhart county, Ind., was organized in 1874, by Revs. Peter Winebrenner and George Abbott with fourteen charter members. The present membership numbers 175, prominent among whom are Dr. W. H. Knepple and wife, Fred Young and wife, A. C. Culp and wife, F. T. Atkinson and wife, W. O. Yarian and wife, D. V. Werntz, Fred Trisinger, and Mrs. John Wire. The church building is an old brick structure valued at $1200. The estimated combined wealth of the membership is placed at $30,000. Ministers who are members of this church are Mary G. Rheubottom, Wakarusa, and W. J. Young, Huntington, Ind. The following ministers have served the church as pastors: Peter Winebrenner, Geo. Abbott, D. W. Fowler, James Atchison, Reason Davis, David Hidy, J. J. Copeland, David S. Boswell, M. G. Rheubottom, W. J. Young, Geo. E. Hicks, V. R. Miller, A. E. Kemp and J. M. Miller. The present officers are, Anthony Smeltzer and W. O. Yarian, trustees; Fred Young and B. F. Melvin, deacons; M. J. Lechlitner, clerk.

BIOGRAPHIES.

ELDER JAMES ATCHISON

Was born in Lewisburg, Ohio, in 1814. He received a common school education in Darke county, Ohio. Was converted and joined the church in the year 1832. Entered the ministry in 1838 and was ordained in Jay county, Ind., in 1842.

Rev. Atchison was present at the organization of Eel River Conference and offered the opening prayer at that session. He united with the Conference at its second session, 1845, and was a faithful member to the time of his death. He preached during his natural life time to almost every church in Conference. Also preached some in other Conferences, and with the writer and Elder Tatton took a tour through Canada in the year 1870. After attending the quadrennial convention in Oshawa (1870) he preached at White Vail, Baum, and other Christian churches of Canada. He attended almost all of the quadrennial conventions, and being a very able Bible preacher, he was usually called upon to preach. His favorite themes were: "The Sonship of Christ," and "The Suffering, Death and Resurrection of Christ," and "The Last Resurrection" was his special favorite theme. In his lofty flights upon these topics he would seemingly bring heaven and earth together, and we could hardly tell whether in or out of the body.

Rev. Atchison not only offered the first prayer in Eel River Conference, but it became the custom of Conference to have him open all of its annual sessions with prayer. This was kept up for fifty years or more.

His first wife was the daughter of Elder Joseph Roberts, and after her death he married Mrs. White of Ligonier, with whom he lived until his death. She survived him but a short time when she too fell asleep. And now they "sleep that sleep from which none ever wake to weep."

Rev. Atchison was one of our mild preachers, all love with him. He was a lover of the old Christian hymns and would frequently sing them. Eternity alone can tell the amount of good done by this dear loving and beloved brother, and great must be his reward in Heaven, nothing less than "A house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens." P. W. W.

ELDER PETER BANTA

Though never a member of Eel River Christian Conference deserves mention in this book because of his part in laying the foundation for this Conference. About the year 1840, Father David Winebrenner, an exhorter, learned from Brother Baker that Rev. Peter Banta from Ohio would preach at Waterford Mills at a certain time. Being desirous to have a Christian minister organize a church at Wolf Lake, he rode on horse-back to Waterford where he met and heard Banta and solicited him to come to Wolf Lake, which he did and organized what is now the Merriam church with twelve charter members. He also organized other Christian churches, preparing the way for the organization of this Conference. Elder Banta traveled on horse back from near Dayton, Ohio, to points in Ohio and Indiana taking a month to make his rounds, giving each point monthly preaching, and on account of having new places to visit, it frequently took more than a month. Here was a man with the right Christian zeal and grit. Filled with the Holy Ghost he pushed forward to certain victory. Does not Eel River Christian Conference and many of her churches stand as a living monument to God's power manifested through the earnest labors of his steward, Peter Banta?

REV. ROBERT L. AMBER

Was born near Urbana, Ind. He was converted and joined the Christian church in 1876 under the ministry of Thomas Whitman. He united with the Conference as a licentiate in 1886 and was ordained at Broadway the following year. He was a consecrated young man of ability and served as pastor of the following churches: Sidney, Salamonie, Pleasant Grove, Beuna Vista, Plum Tree, North Manchester, and at St. Johnsville, N. Y. He died in 1895 and was widely mourned. We copy from the report of the Committee on Condolence: "Brother Amber was an earnest student, carefully preparing himself for the work by taking a biblical course at U. C. College and graduating from the same institution. During his ministry he filled a number of pulpits as pastor to good acceptance, his last charge being at North Manchester. While engaged in active work, he was compelled to lay aside his labor, hoping that by careful treatment he might be restored to usefulness. His ministry was a success, as all who knew him can testify. His last words were, "I am going to rest."

REV. JOHN BOSLEY

Was received as a licentiate in 1851. His name was dropped three years later by his own request.

ELDER GEORGE ABBOTT

United with Eel River Conference as a licentiate member at its fourth annual session which was held at Pleasant Grove in 1847. He was ordained in the same church in 1849.

Elder Abbott was born in Preble county, Ohio, September 18, 1817, and died in North Manchester, March 30, 1894, aged 76 years, 6 months and 12 days. He was the son of James and Catherine Abbott, both of whom were members of the Christian church. When George was 17 years old his father moved to Kosciusko county, Ind., where together they cleared up a farm in the green woods. He was married to Nancy Barrett in 1838, and immediately moved to a place four miles east of North Manchester, where he began clearing a farm for himself. Under Elder Banta in 1842 he and his wife united with the Christian church. He at once entered the ministry but was not ordained until 7 years later, when he entered fully upon the work of the ministry. The country was new, the people poor, his salary a pittance, yet he pushed forward. For the first three year's labor as a minister, he received twenty-five cents in money. He organized some twenty churches as will be seen in the church histories. His last great work in organization was at Huntington. He never wanted for a place to labor. If not called to some particular place, he made for himself a place.

He was disliked some because of

his tendency to fight for his beloved principles, but he was extremely tender hearted and sympathetic, often shedding tears for people in their afflictions. He contended earnestly for the name "Christian" and frequently said, "I would as lief be called a devil as a Newlight." He had a number of debates with opponents of his faith, most prominent of which were the following: First, with Rev. Douglas in a barn near Markle, Ind., the subject being, "The Trinity and Pedo Baptism." The second one was held near Galveston, Ind., on "The Kingdom of Christ upon Earth." Abbott affirmed and the negative was taken by an Advent restitutionist, Carbala by name. The third occurred at Paw Paw with a Disciple minister. The design of water baptism figured largely in the discussion. They also discussed the same subject debated with Carbala. The fourth was held at Ashton, Ill., with Rev. Stevenson, an Advent restitutionist, the subject being the one discussed with Carbala. Abbott never was defeated. In defense of Bible truth he was a power in the hands of God.

His wife died in March, 1888, leaving four children, four having preceded her. On December 12th of the same year Elder Abbott took to wife, Elizabeth Bennett, who was a member of the Merriam Christian church and with whom he lived happily until his death. His dying words were these: "Brother Winebrenner, I have considered my past life and feel satisfied with it. Had I my life to live over, I should wish no change in it. If I erred in any way, it was an error of the head and not of the heart. I was sincere and conscientious in all my preaching and discussions, presenting what, with all my heart, I believed to be strictly in accord with God's word, and with this I am satisfied." His funeral was held at Pleasant Grove where he united with the church, where accepted into Conference, and where ordained. His body was there interred.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Peter Winebrenner, assisted by Elder Thomas Whitman and Rev. J. N. Ullery.

REV. JOSEPH AMBER

United with Eel River Conference as a licentiate in 1895. In 1896 he preached at Prairie school house in Illinois and attended U. C. College. He was ordained at his home church, Paw Paw, in 1897. His work in the ministry was of short duration, as at the next annual session, 1898, Conference was called upon to record his death. Suitable exercises of condolence were held, Conference standing with bowed heads in token of their sorrow and respect.

REV. MARTIN ARNOLD

Was born in Maryland in 1805. He was converted and joined the church in 1856. He united with Conference as a licentiate in 1868 and lived a consistent christian life up to the day of his death which was caused by his horse becoming frightened at a train and running away. He was 85 years of age. In the report of the Committee on Condolence his life was praised because of his faith and efficiency in the christian ministry.

REV. NELSON ABBOTT

Who resides at Mt. Etna, Ind., united with the Conference as a licentiate in 1867, and was ordained in 1871. Bro. Abbott, while not being actively engaged in the ministry, reports at every session of Conference, either by letter or in person.

RIVERSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH,

Elkhart, Elkhart County, Indiana.

REV. SAMUEL FRANTZ

Was born near North Manchester, Ind., October 8, 1867. He was converted and united with the Antioch Christian church under the labors of W. S. Manville in 1893 and was baptized by D. S. Boswell the next year. In 1897 he entered Eel River Conference as a licentiate. He is pursuing the outlined course of study and expects to finish this year. Rev. Frantz is a faithful, conscientious minister of the gospel, and has served the following churches as pastor: North Union, Plum Tree, Collamer, Salamonie and Beuna Vista, and is the pastor of the three last named at the present time. He was married to Miss Anna Brindle May 1, 1895. To this union has been born one child, a daughter.

REV. ABRAHAM BYRKETT

Was born in Pennsylvania in 1807. He united with this Conference in 1860 and was ordained in 1863. His last report to Conference was in 1878 when he said, "I am old and worn out, not able to travel any more." Eight years before this he reported, "Traveled 600 miles, preached 100 sermons, baptized 2, and received $14 salary." Brother Byrkett died in 1879.

REV. J. D. COVERSTONE

Became a licentiate in 1873. In 1875 his name was dropped from the roll, he having united with another denomination.

REV. C. W. COOK

Of Bluffton, Ind., united with Eel River Conference as a licentiate in 1893. In 1897 he reports having united with an eastern Conference.

REV. DANIEL B. ATKINSON

Was born March 5, 1869, near Salamonie, Jay county, Ind. The earlier years of his life were spent on the farm in Jay and Elkhart counties. At seventeen years of age he began teaching in the public schools and continued to teach for four years, attending the summer normals at Millersburg, and serving as one of the instructors in the normal the summer of 1890. In September, 1890, he entered Union Christian College, Merom, Ind., graduating with the class of 1894, taking the degrees B. A. and B. D. for the Classical and Biblical courses, and receiving three years later, the degree M. A. from the same institution.

While in college he preached as supply for the church at Enon, Ohio, during the summer of 1891; served as pastor of the church at Newton, Ill., 1892-93, and of the church at New Liberty, Gibson county, Ind., 1893-94. September 1, 1894, he began his pastorate with the church at Muncie, Ind., serving that church until September 1, 1898, resigning to accept a call to the chair of Latin in his Alma Mater .He entered upon his duties in the Union Christian College in September, 1898, and has served continuously as Professor of Latin ever since.

During the years 1898 and 1901 he served as assistant pastor of the College church at Merom, Ind.

July 3, 1895, he was united in marriage with Miss Celia Randolph, a member of the same graduating class with himself. Mrs. Atkinson's death occurred October 1, 1900. Lois, their only child was born November 18, 1897, and is living.

Mr. Atkinson became a licentiate member of Eel River Christian Conference in August, 1890, and was ordained to the work of the ministry in August, 1892. He was Secretary of the Indiana State Christian Conference, 1894-1900. He has served as State Secretary of C. E., Vice-President of the State C. E. Union for three years, C. E. Secretary for the A. C. C. for over two years and has served in various capacities in the State and Eel River Conferences.

The summer of 1901 was spent in the University of Chicago in the study of Latin and Psychology. His life has been an unusually busy one and he has had the confidence of his associates in every field of his activity. He is a quiet, reserved man, with a keen sense of humor and with a will power which makes itself fielt in whatever he undertakes. While not a polished orator, he is a forcible speaker and hits the mark, which, after all, is the real test of the orator. His is the rare ability to discover ability and put it to work. Our personal estimate is, that his greatest usefulness is in organizing the educational work for the denomination, and in preparing men to go out to preach the Word.

Professor Atkinson is still a young man and his friends are justified in expecting much of him in the coming years. R. R. S.

REV. DAVID S. BOSWELL

United with this Conference in 1889, bringing a letter of recommendation from the Mississinewa Valley Conference. He very acceptably served as pastor at Pleasant Hill, Plum Tree, Warren, Collamer, Millwood, Servia, Wakarusa, Eel River, Antioch and Merriam.

At his own request the Executive Board granted him a letter of recommendation and dismissal, January 25, 1898.

(MRS. D. HIDY) (DAVID HIDY)

ELDER DAVID HIDY

Was born in Fayette county, Ohio, June 24, 1834. In 1837 with his parents, W. M. and Catherine Hidy, he came to Indiana settling on Simington's Creek, Wabash county. He first attended a school held in a log school house near his home in 1842, and by attending faithfully during the winter months he made considerable advancement. At the age of 14 he united with the Pleasant Grove Christian church under the preaching of H. B. Barber who baptized him. In 1853 he was married to Miss S. J. Abbott. To them were born five children. Two sons and two daughters are still living.

October 8, 1863, he volunteered in the Union army and served as a non-commissioned sargeant in Comgany E, 130th Indiana Infantry. During the Atlantic campaign he was in 16 battles for a period of 120 days, and 200 of his regimental comrades were killed and wounded. He was honorably discharged after the close of the war, on June 8, 1865.

He preached his first sermon at Boonesville and became a member of Eel River Conference in 1868, was ordained in 1869, and has been in the work ever since, with all of his time taken. He served as President of the Conference 3 years and has been Vice-President for the past 11 years. He has preached about 1500 funerals, married 1200 couples, and baptized about 500 persons. For convenience he went into the North Manchester church as a charter member, at which place he still resides.

REV. J. W. BOLTON

Was born in Whitley county, Ind., in 1849. He grew up on a farm, and having gained a good common school education, he began teaching in 1869, which profession he followed for ten years. In 1874 he was married to Amanda A., daughter of Samuel Abbott. He was ordained to the ministry in 1868 at the session of Eel River Conference at New Madison. In 1893 he graduated from the theological department of Union Christian College. Bro. Bolton has been, since his entrance to the ministry, laboring continuously in his chosen calling, serving some of our best churches and at Erie, Pa. He is now pastor of the Six Mile, Olivet, and Millersburg churches.

REV. BOSTON S. CONSTANT

United with Conference in 1870 as a licentiate, but no further record is to be found of his work or life.

REV. J. L. DUNN

Was born in Warren county, Ohio, in 1823. He entered the ministry in 1858, united with this Conference in 1874 and died at Waterford, Ind., in 1879. Despite the fact that he was a poor man with a large family and sometimes poorly clad he braved the severest storms that he might meet his appointments and break to his people the bread of life. He united with the chuch in 1840. He came to us well recommended from the North Western Ohio Conference. He died in the triumph of living faith within sight of heaven and went home to Jesus whom he loved so well, at the age of 56 years.

REV. LEVI ABBOTT

Was a licentiate member of the first session of Conference, and was ordained at Pleasant Grove, January, 1849, at the same time of ordination of his brother George. He died in 1851. Though his ministry was of short duration he was earnest, devoted and was loved by all who knew him.

REV. DAVID BOWSER

Of Goshen, Ind., entered Conference as a licentiate in 1845. In 1848 he withdrew and returned in 1863 when he was ordained. Bro. Bowser was a good preacher and a spirited exhorter. He died in 1877.

REV. W. L. BAKER

of Waterford, Ind., became a licentiate member of Conference in 1845, and tendered his resignation in 1846, which Conference reluctantly accepted.

REV. JULIUS E. ETTER

Pastor of the Warren Christian church, was born in Miami county, Ohio, October 7, 1870, on a farm where he passed his youth. He creditably completed Covington, Ohio, high school course and in addition to pursuing a private preparatory course of study, he spent some time in a Chicago theological seminary.

Though none of his connection were ever, in any way, identified with the Christian church, he has from his early life been in sympathy with her broad and Biblical propositions, and a staunch believer in the ultimate triumph of her teachings.

After preaching for some time in connection with his school work, he was ordained to the Christian ministry in the Miami Ohio Conference.

He was united in marriage with Miss Cora D. Minton, of Eaton, Ohio, August 22, 1895, and in 1897 was called to his present pastorate, succeeding the Rev. James Maple, D. D. He became an honorary member of Eel River Conference in 1901.

Rev. Etter is an able preacher and successful pastor. He is greatly loved by his congregation who give him earnest support in his efforts to strengthen the church. His years of usefulness in the cause of Christ have apparently just begun. It is hoped that he may be spared many years to labor in the Master's vineyard.

REV. E. GLEASON

Was born in Cayuga county, N. Y. He united with Eel River Conference in 1874 having entered the ministry seven years previously. He last reported in 1878. His name has since been dropped. He now resides at Treaty, Ind.

REV. LORISON GATES

Of Valparaiso, Ind., united with Conference in 1860 and remained a member until 1872 when he took out a letter of dismissal and commendation to the Mazon River Conference.

REV. DAVID E. GREER

of Bluffton Conference, united with Eel River Conference in 1860. His name was stricken from the roll in 1865, he having reunited with the former Conference.

REV. WILLIAM A. GOSS

Of the Illinois Central Conference united with this Conference in 1860 and was granted a letter in 1864. He was an active worker in the ministry and worked extensively for the Publishing House, a portion of the time being Publishing Agent.

REV. J. J. COPELAND

United with Eel River Christian Conference in 1888, bringing his credentials from the Eastern Indiana Conference. He was the able pastor of Wakarusa, Waterford, Goshen, Millersburg, Collamer, Broadway, Paw Paw, Dunfee and North Webster churches. He joined the Christian church at the age of 17. He entered the ministry in 1880 and was ordained in 1882. He was a man of fine physique, but during the winter of 1894-95 he was taken seriously ill while conducting revival services at North Webster and was soon cold in death. He was 43 years, 7 months and 29 days of age, and fell while laboring hard and faithfully.

REV. AMOS BALDWIN

Was one of the three charter members of Conference and continued in the ministry until 1847 when his name was dropped from the roll.

REV. DAVID W. FOWLER

Was born in New York City in 1823. He entered the ministry in 1842 and united with Eel River Conference in 1869. In 1878 he asked for a letter of recommendation which was granted and he joined the North Western Indiana Conference. In 1895 he reunited with this Conference.

Elder Fowler was one of the most brilliant pulpit orators in the State of Indiana. He did not remain in ruts but in thought stood upon the summit, inviting even his juniors in the ministry to come up higher. He died at his post. In 1898, while preaching in Iowa, he became suddenly ill. He read his text, turned to a brother minister with him in the pulpit and said, "You must preach this discourse, I am sick." He was assisted to the home of friends and feeling that his stay upon earth was at an end, he prayed that his sufferings might be of short duration. His prayer was answered as he expired in a short time. His was a useful life and the influence of his sweet teachings will be felt in succeeding generations. He served a number of our best churches as pastor.

REV. J. T. ALLEN

United with Eel River Conference in 1888 as a licentiate. He was pastor at Paw Paw in 1890. The following year his name was dropped from the roll, he having joined another church.

REV. L. B. APPLETON

Was born in Dayton, Ohio. He became a member of this Conference in 1873 and was ordained in 1875. In 1876 he was expelled for immoral conduct.

GILBERT ROMINE HAMMOND, PH. D.

Was born at Hunter's Land, Schohaire county, New York, December 11, 1848. His people were of Scotch and Dutch origin. James Hammond, his father, died when Gilbert was a boy of 10 years, leaving his wife to care for a family of small children. The son worked out until 17 years of age when he had accumulated sufficient means to enter Starkey Seminary, from which institution he graduated in 1870.

Six years later he graduated with the degree of A. B. from Union Christian College. He also took post-graduate courses in John Hopkins and Syracuse Universities from which last named institution he graduated a Ph. D. in 1886. He also took special work in chemistry in Harvard College.

During these passing years while not attending school himself he was engaged in teaching, first in his home county, then in Ogle county, Ill. In 1877 he had charge of a private school in South Westerlo, N. Y. Afterwards he was principal of the Knoxville, Pa., schools and for three years was principal of a private school for boys in Dayton, Ohio. Four times he was called to Starkey Seminary, once as a Professor of Latin and Greek and twice as principal. He also at one time occupied the chair of Latin and Greek in Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

In 1876 he was married to Miss Dollie Simons, a cultured lady of Eddytown, N. Y., who has ever since been a devoted and encouraging help-mate in all his efforts to better humanity. In 1891 he went to Europe to enlarge his store of knowledge visiting all the principal countries of that continent as well as Egypt.

While teaching at Dayton, Ohio, he was pastor of the Dayton church and later served the churches at Aran, Greenville Creek, Laura and Phillipsburg. In 1896 he returned to Starkey as principal, resigning in 1898 when he took charge of the Bluffton church in Eel River Conference, of which he at once became a member. For the past three years he has resided in Elkhart having in charge our mission there and also the Goshen church. He is a cultured, consecrated, spirit-filled man of God. The sacrifice he has made and the devotion with which he has brought the Elkhart church to the front has endeared him to the people of this Conference.

REV. JESSE FANNIN

Was born in Wayne county, Indiana, November 9, 1820. He was converted in his fifteenth year. In 1836, at the age of 16 he moved with his parents, Rev. Bryant Fannin and wife, to a farm near North Manchester, Indiana, where he grew to manhood. He was married to Dimy Nichols, February 14, 1843. To this union were born three sons and four daughters. In 1850 he entered Eel River Conference as a licentiate and was ordained in 1870. His wife died June 19, 1881. On September 20, 1887, he married Mrs. Anna M. Horner. Brother Fannin was one of the pioneers of this Conference and a faithful mtnister of the gospel for over 50 years. He was very strict in what he believed to be right and did much good in the cause of Christ and of temperance. He died at his home in Wabash county, January 14, 1902, at the advanced age of 81 years, 2 months and 5 days.

REV. J. W. CONERY

Was born in Boiling Springs, Pa. Was educated in common schools, was converted and joined the church in 1870. He united with this Conference as a licentiate in 1884. He preached at Smith's school house in Whitley county, and did missionary work at Antioch. He died in 1885 at North Manchester surrounded by a faithful sister and a number of christian friends. He was an excellent soldier of the cross and his death was greatly felt and sadly mourned by the entire Conference.

REV. MUNSON W. COOK

Of Albion, Ind., united with Conference at a called session of the Standing Committee, October, 1863, at the Union church. Father Cook came from Canada, and while aged he was strong physically and intellectually. He preached regularly for several years. In 1869 he reported, "I am very feeble and unable to preach." After six years of faithful service in the Conference, he died in September, 1869, at the advanced age of 83 years.

REV. COMMODORE CLEMANS

United with Conference in 1862 and was ordained, October, 1863, at a called session of the Standing Committee. He was Secretary of Conference four years and withdrew from Conference in 1868 by letter.

REV. M. V. HATHAWAY

United with this Conference, a licentiate, in 1877. Two years later, by vote of Conference, he was given a letter commending him for ordination to an Illinois Conference, having removed to that state.

SIX MILE CHRISTIAN CHURCH,

Near Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana.

REV. JAMES H. GREGORY

Was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in 1810, united with the church in 1828 and was ordained to the Christian ministry in 1851. He resided near Merriam church upon his farm for 14 years when he moved to Walkerton, Ind., where he died in 1891 at the advanced age of 81 years. His talent was largely exhortation. He frequently spoke in Conference of himself putting chunks of fire-brands together. Illustrating his chosen work by something known to people in that early day. When clearing the land of the forests, logs were piled together in heaps and burned. After burning awhile they would fall apart, when the fireman must with hand-spike bring the chunks and fire-brands together. Thus, like the fireman, he succeeded in bringing together those who were out of harmony with one another.

There occurred an incident in his life which may be of help to others. While residing at Merriam he lay sick nigh unto death for a long time. Friends, wife and children were watching at his bedside expecting each breath to be the last when he suddenly opened his eyes and said, "I came to the river of Death. The waves were running high, the waters chilly. There stood an Angel who said, 'You cannot cross now, the waters are too cold, the waves too high. Tarry with your family, complete your work and when all is done, you will find the waters calm and the chill removed. Then you may cross over.' "

After this scene he regained his strength and labored earnestly for the Master till the call came.

REV. RILEY FREEMAN

Was born in Clay county, Kentucky, May 21, 1821. When a child he came with his parents to Laurel. In 1831 he united with the M. E. church and was at one time a licensed exhorter and class leader. In 1839 he became a member of the U. B. church and was licensed to preach, doing good work for the church. From Laurel he came to Wabash county in 1842. In April, 1846, he was married to Martha A. Amber and together they still reside near the Paw Paw church in Wabash county.

In 1847 he united with the Christian church and was ordained to the ministry at Paw Paw church. He served this church as deacon for twenty-five years. To the writer of this sketch, the dear old servant of God recently said, "The journey of life is almost over. Soon I shall kneel before the Great White Throne. May my Master then say, 'Well done. Enter thou in. There's room for all.' Sweet will be the rest. Joy will be complete."

D. H.

REV. GEORGE GLOYD

Was born in Ligonier in 1848. He was converted and joined the church in 1867. In 1886 he united with Eel River Conference as a licentiate. Brother Gloyd reports each year, preaches funerals and aids other ministers, preaching from 12 to 40 sermons yearly. He is well versed in the scriptures, is in full harmony with the Christian doctrine and aids much financially in building up the Christian cause. He now resides with his brother William upon an extensive farm near Kimmel, Indiana.

REV. J. T. HORNE

Was born in Virginia, educated in Clemonsville University, united with the church in 1846, entered the ministry in 1868, and was ordained at Westfield in 1872. He united with Eel River Conference in 1878, bringing his credentials from the Weslyan Methodist Conference. He served several churches and in 1880 was given a letter to a Christian Conference in Kansas. He died at North Branch, Kas., in 1893.

REV. J. R. HOAG

Of Ohio, united with Eel River Conference in 1876. He organized the Collamer church and was the efficient pastor of a number of others. He was a native of New York and entered the ministry in 1842. In 1878 he received letters of recommendation and emigrated to Nebraska, in which state he now resides.

REV. WILLIAM DEAL

Was a licentiate of the first Conference. His name was dropped from the roll in 1847.

REV. LEWIS HIMES

Was born in Montgomery, Virginia, entered the ministry in 1886 and was ordained at Marshall, Wis., in 1867. He came to Eel River Conference in 1883, recommended by the Richland Union Conference of Wisconsin. He served as pastor of Spring Hill, Union and Leesburg at which latter place he resided. In 1891 he removed to Elwood taking with him a recommendation from Conference.

REV. EPHRIAM HAMMOND

United with Conference, a licentiate, in 1863. He was ordained May 10, 1864, at a called session of the standing committee composed of Elders Zeigler, Abbott, Whitman and Winebrenner. His name was dropped from the roll in 1867, he haying united with the Disciples of Christ.

REV. WILLIAM HOOD

Was ordained in 1845 at the request of the Wabash Christian church. His name was dropped from the roll in 1849.

REV. ALPHEUS IDEN

Was converted and joined church in 1875. He was educated at Stanfordville, N. Y., and united with this Conference as a licentiate in 1877. During the following year he served a church in New York. In 1881 he was ordained at the Merriam church. His name was dropped from the roll in 1882. He is now a member of an Illinois Conference and the pastor of several churches.

REV. HENDERSON JOHNSON

Was a licentiate of the first session of Conference. Dropped from the roll in 1847.

REV. DAVID WINSTON JONES

President Eel River Christian Conference
1872 to 1883

Was born July 11, 1821, near the city of Dayton, Ohio. His parents, Obadiah and Ann Pearson Jones, were reputable Quakers or Friends, and he, therefore, had a birth-right membership in that church, and was brought up strictly in that faith. He attended the common schools of that period, including the Sunday School, and became proficient in the elementary branches, and committed many poems, and passages from the Holy Scriptures, that remain vivid in memory to this day. His "First Reader" in school was a copy of the New Testament. This about completed his education; for in 1834, when 14 years of age, he removed with his parents to the present site of Jonesborough, Grant county, Ind., to engage in making a home and a farm in that, at that time sparsely settled, new country. There were no schools here for several years afterward, and then but of the lowest grade.

The ensuing years, up to 1840, were occupied with hard work—clearing, farming, mill building and tending, with other work incident to an unimproved and wild country. The nearest Friend's meeting where he, with his parents, attended, was three miles; but just across the Mississinewa river, one mile, was situated the Walnut Creek Christian church, from its nearness and young society, he frequently attended. This was the means by which in after years, he became a member and a minister of the Christian church. He well remembers some of the ministers of those early days, among whom were Hallett Barbour, Arthur W. Sanford, Silas Parks, John Robison, S. C. Minnich, etc. "Uncle" Jimmy Atchison, as he afterwards was affectionately called, was just beginning his work in the ministry, and made frequent visits to Walnut Creek church where he made some of his first efforts.

During these years—the interim between youth and manhood—our subject often felt the impulse rising within him to be a scholar. At one time he made application to the President of Oberlin College, Ohio, to be admitted a pupil of that institution, and the correspondence resulted in an agreement that he was to enter at the next succeeding annual term. The father here interposed, he could not spare him, his oldest son from the work; besides the necessary funds to take him through college, were not available at the time. So the young man had to content himself with the moiety of learning he had, and what he could pick up in a desultory way. The matter was finally compromised by allowing him one term at the Academy some time afterwards.

August 1, 1840, he was married to Jane Atkinson, a worthy young lady of the same county, whose parents were also Quakers, she being a birth-right member, and they were both disowned

for accomplishing their marriage contrary to the church rules.

These were the years in which the anti-slavery question was up for settlement, and he took an active part in the discussion. In 1852 he removed to Marion, the county seat, and established the *Mississinewa Gazette*, a weekly anti-slavery and temperance paper. Joined the Christian church and commenced preaching. Became a member of the old Bluffton Conference and was ordained at Knightstown by Elders N. Summerbell, Arthur W. Sanford and "blind" John Byrkett. Between the years 1852 and 1863 he was engaged in publishing, occasional preaching, and two years as county treasurer. In 1863 he removed to Fort Wayne and established the *Fort Wayne Daily Gazette*, which he published for some months, took a partner and after two years finally sold out.

In 1871 he united with the Eel River Christian Conference, held with the Eel River church August 14, and resumed the ministry. At the next session of Conference was chosen presiding officer, which position he held for eleven years, and declined a reelection. In January, 1876, he issued the first number of *The Christian Age*, which he continued as a monthly and semi-monthly publication for five years. Was the first to propose and advocate the organization of a State Christian Conference; and at the organization at Cassville, Miami county, was chosen its first Secretary. Is now June 1, 1902, enjoying reasonable health, and a comfortable hope of immortality beyond the vale, aged 80 years and 11 months.

REV. HAYNES PARKER

United with this Conference in 1851. His name was dropped in 1854, he having united with the Disciples of Christ.

REV. A. E. KEMP

Second son of B. F. Kemp, was born in Randolph county, Ind., March 7, 1875. He spent his boyhood days upon his father's farm where he improved the opportunities of a common school education. He then completed a high school course after which he went to college to better prepare himself for life's work. At the age of 24 he was married to Miss Ida Roush, of Jordan, Indiana.

While in college he felt impressed to take up the work of the ministry. He spent four years in the classical course, graduating with the degree of A. B. He attributes his standing in life to the religious training of his youth and the influence of God's word of truth.

He is of quiet disposition and unassuming, strong in intellect and grounded in the Christian faith. Early in life he united with the Christian church which he says comes nearest his ideal church (Christ's church.) In 1899 he was received into Eel River Conference as a licentiate and was ordained at Six Mile in 1901. May his future be bright and noble and may many souls be constrained to accept the Savior through his influence.

REV. WILLIAM B. JONES

Was born at Elk Run, Columbiana county, Ohio, 1818. He was educated in common school, joined the church in 1840 and entered the ministry in 1845, being ordained at Danville, Ohio. He became a member of this Conference in 1856 and was a valuable accession because of his superior ability. He did much to build up the Millwood church and remained loyal until his death in 1889.

REV. J. MARTIN MILLER

Was born in Wabash county, Indiana, September 18, 1855. His early boyhood days were spent as a farm hand, helping to support a widowed mother, and attended school during the winter months. He began teaching school in 1874, which profession he followed for 25 years. He attended several normal terms and fitted himself for the teaching of the higher branches in the high schools of Warsaw, Ind.

In 1890, at Sidney, Ind., he united with the Christian church. In 1894 he entered Eel River Conference as a licentiate, and after completing the Conference course of study, was ordained at the Paw Paw church in 1897. In 1899 he was called to the pastorate of the churches at Bluffton and Six Mile, where he did excellent work, especially at Bluffton, where through his efforts the church was cleared of a long standing debt. He is at present the pastor of the Wakarusa and Millwood churches where he has the love, confidence and support of the entire membership. He is a man of sterling qualities, unassuming, but full of the Spirit and anxious for the salvation of souls. J. R. R.

REV. ROSA LEE (now STODDARD)

United with Eel River Conference as a licentiate in 1895. She was the daughter of Simeon Lee, whose biography appears below. She was the pastor of Broadway church in 1896 and did efficient work. She married B. M. Stoddard, ex-publishing agent, and moved to Dayton, Ohio. In 1895 she was granted a letter of dismissal and recommendation.

REV. SIMEON LEE

Was born in Wayne county, Ind., in 1845, and died in 1870 at the age of 24 years and 5 months, after an illness of three months. He attended Union College about 6 months. He maintained an untarnished name and died in the triumph of faith, exhorting all his friends to meet him in Heaven.

REV. UZAL KIMBALL

Was born in Perry county, Ohio, in 1819. He united with this Conference in 1872, being ordained the same year. He died in 1898 at the ripe age of 79 years. He worked faithfully up to the time of his death.

REV. J. B. H. KENNISTON

Of Ohio Central Conference united with Eel River Conference in 1851. He was dismissed at a called session in March, 1853.

REV. WILLIAM S. MANVILLE

Was born in Bloomfield, Knox county, Ohio, June 15, 1819. Under peculiar circumstances, when about 20 years of age, he embraced religion desiring no other name but Christian. He was ordained in the Mt. Vernon, Ohio, Conference and for fifteen years preached for the Sparta church within sight of his birthplace. He also served the Appleton, Ohio, church for 15 years.

In 1842 he was married to Catherine Ramey, who has preceded him to Heaven. They moved to Indiana in 1860 and in 1873 he united with Eel River Conference. He served a number of our churches and for three years canvassed the State in the interest of the Christian church. He once held a public discussion with the champion debater, Rev. Miller, of the Dunkard denomination, at the Antioch church, which lasted nine days and at the close it was said by those hearing the debate that Bro. Manville had gained every point. Though now 83 years of age, Bro. M. is still vigorous in thought and loves to dwell upon the following favorite thoughts: "Christ the Vine, we the branches;" "Christ the bridegroom, the church the bride;" "A little leaven leavens the whole lump;" "Christ the head of the body, the church." He resides at Valparaiso, Indiana.

REV. LEVI MARKS

Was born in Bedford, Pa., in 1828. He was converted and joined the church in 1851. He entered Conference in 1882 and was ordained the following year. He acted as pastor of Spring Hill, Pleasant Hill and Millwood. Though now aged and feeble he is still preaching. He has been quite successful in his work, being a Holy Ghost preacher. He is now only waiting the Master's call.

REV. VAN RANSLER MILLER

Was born on a farm in Cass county, Michigan. His father, a Christian minister, was one of the earliest settlers in that county. His grandfather was a Baptist minister, while his great grandfather and great great grandfather were both Dunkard ministers. Bro. Miller was raised on a farm, receiving a country school education. On his 21st birthday he was married to Mary E. Dickinson, of Goshen, Ind. To this union three children were born, Floyd Owen, Seymore Allen and Rose, who is now the wife of J. C. Swartz, Chicago. At the age of 24, Bro. Miller left the farm, moved to Goshen and learned the blacksmith trade, at which he worked more or less for 20 years. In 1867 he was converted and united with the Methodist church. In 1871 he moved back into the country, working at his trade and taking an active part in Sabbath school work. He was licensed to exhort in 1875, and in 1877 he withdrew from the M. E. church joining the Christian church, the church of his father, and in August of that year was ordained a minister. Since 1882 he has resided in Goshen, working at his trade and preaching occasionally, until 1899, since which time he has been devoted entirely to preaching the gospel. His first regular charges were, Millwood, where he received fifty persons into the church in his first revival; Spring Hill, and in Hillsdale county, Michigan. He has been eminently successful as a pastor and revivalist and has perhaps been instrumental in bringing more persons into the church than any minister of this Conference, now living, having received as many as ninety-four in one year. Physically he is a fine specimen of manhood. He is possessed of a kindly disposition and is earnest, eloquent and reverent in his chosen work.

REV. CHRISTOPHER C. MORRIS

Was born in Wayne county, Ind., June 28, 1814. He was raised a strict Quaker. At the age of 22, when there was division among the Society of Friends, he was led to think seriously upon religious matters.

In 1840 he moved to Huntington county locating in a settlement of Friends about six miles west of the City of Huntington. Later he moved into the city and united with the Baptists, there being no Society of Friends in the city at that time. He soon began preaching for the Baptists, and teaching public school during the winter months.

In the fall of 1847 he went to Warren and preached for the few Baptists residing there. There being no other churches of this denomination near, the Conference paid no attention to it and it soon ceased to exist. Brother Morris then united with the Disciples of Christ and labored with them several years, until as a congregation, they ceased to exist.

In 1874 during a great revival conducted by Rev. D. W. Fowler, in Warren, Brother Morris asked to be received as a member and to be put to work. He was gladly welcomed and at once set out in the Christian ministry, continuing faithfully to declare the Christian principles until he went from labor to reward, September 22, 1887, which was soon after the annual Conference with the Broadway church. In 1877, Brother Morris laid the corner stone for the first Christian church at Warren, the one which was torn down in the spring of 1902 to be replaced by a new temple of worship. He also was a great Sabbath School worker and assisted in organizing the first Sabbath School in Warren, acting as Superintendent for two years. Besides, he was a very active temperance worker. His influence as an untiring worker in the Master's cause will always be felt in Eel River Christian Conference.

REV. JONATHAN MARKLEY

Who resides at Murray, Ind., united with this Conference in 1869 as a licentiate. He was elected President in 1870 and was ordained two years later. His education consists in a common school education supplemented by some work done in Union Christian College. He has had charge of several churches and was the beloved pastor of his home (Murray) church many years. He has done much, not only to sustain his own church, but in building up others of the Conference. He has preached many funerals and while not actively engaged in the ministry is always ready to bear his part of the work.

REV. WILLIAM MILES

Was born in Miami county, Ohio, in 1837. He became a licentiate of this Conference in 1872. During the following year he preached most of the time, but in 1874 he took sick which prevented him from doing much work. In 1875 he passed away yet in the prime of life "He was an earnest supporter of the church, a devoted and affectionate husband and father, a generous, loyal and enterprising citizen."

REV. ABRAHAM KITELINGER

Was received as a licentiate in 1857. His name was dropped from the roll in 1867, at which time he resided at Joliet, Ills.

ELDER MOSES McDANIEL

Of Bluffton Conference, became a member of this Conference in 1860 and for the next two years was President of the Conference, delivering the annual address in 1862. In 1864 he united with the Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan Conference. He was an eloquent speaker, often speaking two hours or more, holding his audience spell-bound while he gave word pictures of the scenes and beauties of the glorified state. He was an active worker in the interests of Union Christian College in Indiana. He traveled and labored extensively in new fields, establishing the Master's cause. He accumulated little property in this life, but secured to himself the true riches—the gold tried in fire—the everlasting inheritance beyond.

REV. SAMUEL McNEELY

Was born in Butler county, Ohio, in 1845. He united with this Conference as a licentiate in 1873 and was ordained in 1874. He is an able minister of the Gospel and while at present a member of the Northwestern Indiana Conference, he has done much to build up Eel River Conference. He preaches every Sunday, is zealous in the cause and a workman that needeth not to be ashamed.

REV. S. H. McGEE

Was born at Mill Hall, Pa. He was a member of the Disciples at Huntington, Ind., but in 1873 entered this Conference as a licentiate and was ordained the same year. In 1877 he was expelled from Conference upon very serious charges, which were sustained by court.

REV. HEZEKIAH MADDOX

A native of Kentucky, united with this Conference in 1859 and was ordained the same year. He was in the ministry twenty-one years, frequently reporting his work to Conference. After the year 1880 no report of his work or his whereabouts is to be found.

REV. SAMUEL C. MINNICH

Of the Antioch Christian Conference, united with Eel River Conference in 1860 and was granted a letter of dismissal, at his own request, in 1866.

REV. F. K. MOWRER

Of North Manchester, united with this Conference as a licentiate in 1890. In 1891 he was pastor of the Six Mile church, preached 200 sermons and received 23 members into the church. In April 1892 he gave up his license to Conference.

REV. FRANK MOSURE

Became a licentiate in this Conference in 1882. He reported to Conference as having done some work aiding his own pastor at Vera Cruz and assisting in revivals until 1896, after which time no report is made. His name was subsequently dropped.

REV. H. C. McCOURTNEY

Was received into Conference as a licentiate in 1868, his address at that time being Watseka, Ill. He last reported in 1875.

REV. ROBERT McGEORGE

United with Conference in 1853 and his name was dropped from the roll of ministers in 1858.

BLUFFTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH,

Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana.

REV. R. W. PAGE

Was born near Wilmington, Ohio, June 8, 1858. At the age of 8 years his father lost his life in the war of the rebellion. His mother being left with eight children, it seemed necessary that they be put out among strangers. Since that time Brother Page has made his own way through the world.

At the age of 13 he came to Marion, Ind., where he resided eighteen years. In 1876 he was married to Miss M. J. Coppock. When 28 years of age he united with the Methodist Protestant church at Hanfield, Ind., was licensed to preach in 1889 and in 1892 he united with the Sugar Creek Christian church near Marion. His first charge in the Christian church was near Frankton, Ind.

He served as President of the Indiana Miami Reserve Conference two years and in 1895 became an honorary member of Eel River. Two years later he was admitted to active membership. Since receiving his first license he has been in active service. He has taken into the church 550 members and has preached 104 funerals. He has served some of our best churches and is now pastor of Merriam and Sparta. He is zealous in the work and declares his intention of living and dying in defense of the doctrines of the "Old Christian Church."

REV. DAVID MILLER

Of Millwood, was converted and joined the Christian church in 1843. He became a licentiate minister of this Conference in 1869. He reported nearly each year until 1886 when his death was reported to Conference and suitable resolutions were offered by the Committee on Condolence.

ELDER D. A. McGINNIS

Who resides near Mt. Etna, Ind., was born in Ohio in 1835. He entered the ministry as a licentiate in 1875 and was ordained in 1877. He was pastor at Swamp College in 1888 where he received 35 persons into the church. He has reported to Conference regularly—generally as having done missionary work.

REV. SYLVESTER McGEORGE

United with Conference in 1851 as a licentiate. He was ordained in 1852. He served on important committees, sustained an excellent character and was dismissed by letter in 1856.

REV. DAVID MILLER

United as a licentiate in 1861. He continued a member of Conference for a number of years, his address being Wawaka, Ind. He preached a little, assisting in several revivals. In 1880 by his own request, his name was dropped from the roll.

REV. C. H. MARKS

Son of Elder Levi Marks became a licentiate in this Conference in 1894. In 1896 he served the Spring Hill and Paw Paw churches. In 1897 he requested a dismissal from Conference, which was granted. He is now preaching in the Progressive Brethren church.

REV. DAVID MONROE

Was also a licentiate of the first session of Conference and was a faithful servant until he moved out of the bounds of Conference in 1848.

REV. WILLIAM PERDUE

Was born in Delaware county, Ind., January 8, 1833. His earlier years were spent in the school of poverty. In addition to these lessons, he received what education the district schools afforded in the day of log cabin school houses, when slabs were used for seats.

At the age of 20 he united with the Bentonville, Fayette county, Ind., M. E. church and served the church as steward for a short time. Shortly afterward, on moving to Blackford county, not being able at that time to reconcile his religious views with the doctrines of the M. E. church, and becoming more intimately acquainted with the Christian church, he united himself with that body in February, 1857. He united with Eel River Conference at the Antioch church in 1872, and has been a faithful preacher of the tenets of the Christian church until within recent years. Although he has not been able to preach regularly in recent years on account of physical disability, he has unbounded zeal for the principles of the church of his choice. He moved to Warren in 1882 from his farm in Jackson township, Wells county. He has served the church there as pastor and is at present deeply interested in the spiritual welfare of the church. He teaches a class in the Sunday School as regularly as health will permit, and still preaches occasionally. His life in all these years has always stood for the higher teachings of the Christian religion, and the practical application of these sublime truths in the purification of society and in the ennobling of mankind. J. E. E.

REV. BENJAMIN MONTGOMERY

Was a licentiate of the first session of Conference. He was dropped from the rolls in 1847.

REV. ALEXANDER McCOLLUM

United with Eel River Conference in 1846. His name, however, was dropped from the roll in 1850, he having united with the Disciples of Christ.

REV. JOHN PLUMMER

Of Leesburg, was one of the three charter members of Eel River Conference. He remained in active service and good standing until 1847, the time of his death, which occurred at Leesburg while engaged in prayer in beginning Sabbath services.

REV. SAMUEL POFF

Was a charter member and continued his services in Eel River Conference until in 1846 when his name was transferred to the Tippecancoe Christian Conference.

REV. GEORGE PATTON

United with Eel River Conference in 1861, presenting a letter from the Tippecanoe Conference as an ordained minister, His name was dropped from the roll 1864.

REV. ASA PRATT

Was given an exhorters license in 1865. He was faithful until his death in 1873. In 1872 he requested Conference to release him from further ministerial duties.

REV. WILLIAM W. POOL

United as a licentiate in 1872, He was born at Burrisville, Md. He reported until 1875 after which time there is no further record.

REV. WILLIAM GASTON PARKER

Son of Ransom and Milly Parker and the sixth of ten children, was born in Davie county, N. C., August 5, 1847. His father died in 1861, leaving his mother with six children. William received his education in his native state where school advantages were very meagre. He was converted at the age of 16 and united with the Missionary Baptist church, having had no acquaintance with other denominations except the Methodist church of which his father was a member. His mother was a Baptist and Brother Parker made this church his choice believing as he still does that immersion is the Apostolic mode of baptism.

At the close of the civil war, with his mother and three sisters, he came to Indiana (1867) and settled in Madison county near Summittville where he was employed on a farm. He soon heard of the Christian church and after investigating her doctrines, he became a charter member of the Clarktown Christian church which congregation recommended him to the Miami Reserve Conference. He was licensed to preach and in 1874 he was ordained. He has served the following churches as pastor: Clarktown, Whetstone Chapel, Harrisville, Prairieville, Olivet, Mt. Zion, Young America, Plum Tree, Purviance Chapel, Salamonie, Paw Paw, Union, Clear Creek, Bloomingsburg, Tiosa, Sidney, Millwood, Sparta, Six Mile, Beuna Vista, Buffalo, Greentown, Center and Swayzee. He united with Eel River Conference in 1889. He was married to Eliza A. Whybrew, of Jonesborough, Grant county, Ind., July 23, 1876. He has one daughter, Sarah Ellen, and two sons, William Albert and Charles Robert.

Rev. Parker now resides at Goshen, Ind. He has a very interesting family, his children being diligent in school work. His oldest, the daughter, has been a successful teacher for a number of years. Mr. Parker is quite an able preacher and strong in his religious beliefs.

O. W. W.

REV. JACOB N. RITTENHOUSE

Was born at Dayton, Ohio. He was coverted and joined the church in 1857. He entered Eel River Conference, a licentiate in 1863 and was ordained the following year, He then lived at Wolf Lake but later moved to Wawaka, Ind. He was a good man, an earnest zealous Christian minister and served as pastor of many of our best and oldest churches. His ministry covered a period of thirty years, making his reports regularly. He was twice married and died at his home at Wawaka in 1900, aged nearly 63 years. While he died in straightened circumstances, he had laid up for himself treasures in heaven, and the influence of his kindly teaching will go on through succeeding generations.

REV. JOHN A. REUBELT

Professor in Denver (Ind.) College, united with this Conference in 1877, coming recommended by the Leesburg Christian church as an ordained minister in good standing. While he was not a great preacher, he was an excellent teacher, a scholar in Hebrew, Greek and Latin. He last made report in 1878 from the Denver Christian Normal which he had established in 1877. He reported progress and an enrollment of about 80 pupils.

REV. M. B. REED

Of the Tippecanoe Conferenee, united with Eel River Conference in 1858. His name was dropped from the roll in 1867, he having joined a Michigan Conference.

REV. JOHN POFF

A licentiate of the first Conference was transferred to the Tippecanoe Conference in 1845.

REV. ELIZA ROBINSON

Was born in DeKalb county, Ind., in 1846. She united with the Eel River Conference, a licentiate in 1887, having been recommended by the South Coesse church. In 1889, Sister Robinson organized the North Union church. She was ordained in 1890 and has served as pastor of Thorn Creek, North Union, Dunfee and other churches, reports to Conference each year and is still doing some evangelistic work. She resides at Fort Wayne.

REV. P. L. RYKER

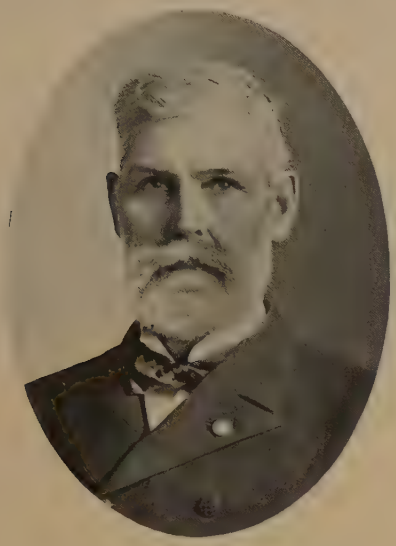
Was born in Jefferson county, Ind. He became a christian in 1875, entering the ministry in 1878, and was ordained at Mt. Zion in 1879. His connection with this Conference dates from 1884, when he came recommended by the I. M. R. Conference. He was pastor of Markle, Rock Creek and North Manchester and did much evangelistic work, In 1888 he withdrew from Eel River Conference and is now a member of a Michigan Conference, residing at Grand Rapids.

REV. JOSEPH ROBERTS

United with Eel River Conference in 1845. He resided at Waterford, Ind., for a time, preaching regularly and reporting until 1852 when he emigrated westward and has since deceased. He was the father of James Atchison's first wife.

REV. SQUIRE ROBINSON

United with Conference at a called session held in Wakarusa, May, 1880. He reported at the next session and since then no record of his work is found.



REV. JACOB M. RITTGERS

Was born in Hocking county, Ohio, February 7, 1847. He grew up on a farm until, on his fifteenth birthday, February 7, 1862, when he offered his services to his country and enlisted as a volunteer in Company F, Second Ohio Heavy Artillery, being attached to the Army of the Cumberland in the famous march to the sea. He remained in the service until the close of the war. Returning home in the fall of 1865 he at once entered the high school at Logan, Ohio, and completed the course of study in 1871. He then engaged in school teaching, continuing in that profession 16 years. In 1884 he was ordained a minister of the Gospel in the Brethren church, in the interest of which church he labored for ten years, being considered one of the best doctrinal preachers among them. For seven years of this time he did evangelistic work and succeeded in organizing a number of strong churches in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, and adding to the church over 600 souls.

Having become acquainted with the Christian church and her broad principles, Brother Rittgers was impressed that such liberal principles of practical christian living should be taught to the world. True to his convictions, he united with the Christian church at Huntington in 1895, being received by Rev. Mary A. Strickland. In August of the same year he was received into Eel River Christian Conference at Warren, Ind., as an ordained minister. Brother Rittgers has continually had all the work he could do. He has served as pastor of Beuna Vista, Six Mile, Murray, Plum Tree and Dunfee churches.

August 20, 1868, he was married to Frances Red and to them were born six sons and one daughter. Two sons have passed to the spirit world. Eugene, Cleophas, Frank, Harley and Miss Maude have grown to manhood and womanhood, hold the respect of all who know them, and are all members of the Christian church. Brother Rittgers is yet in the prime of life, strong and vigorous, both physically and mentally. With Paul he can truly say, "Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." W. J. Y.

REV. D. B. ROLLEN

Was born in Columbia, Tenn., in 1855. He united with this Conference, a licentiate in 1881. He preached some and reported regularly until March, 1888, when at a session of the executive board held at Leesburg, four charges were preferred against him. He surrendered his license rather than stand trial.

REV. MARY G. RHEUBOTTOM

Was born in Sunbury, Ohio, August 20, 1849, but moved to LaGrange, Ind., with her parents when quite young. Her education was acquired at the LaGrange Collegiate Institute at Ontario, under the tutorage of Professor Rufus Patch, from which institution she graduated.

In April, 1886, she was married to James R. Rheubottom, to which union was born one son, who is the present editor of the *Wakarusa Tribune*.

Mrs. Rheubottom has always been interested in the betterment of mankind, and a great believer in the proper training of children, much of her early work being with them in the various juvenile organizations. She was the first President of the Elkhart county W. C. T. U., and delivered many lectures in the cause of temperance. Up to the time of her moving to Wakarusa in 1893, (and where she now resides) she was a member of the M. E. church, but the year following, feeling that she was called to the ministry, united with the Christian church, and at once took charge of the church at Wakarusa as its pastor and served the congregation for two years. Since that time she has had charge of churches at Millersburg, Bellville, Pleasant Hill, Leesburg and North Webster, being at present pastor of the last two named places.

During her ministry she has received into the church between three and four hundred members, her greatest success being at Pleasant Hill, where she received into the church over one hundred members, comprising the very best people of the community, and was instrumental in building at that place a handsome, modern brick church, which is an honor and ornament to the community and has hanging over it no indebtedness.

That she has been successful in her calling, the result of her work speaks louder than any words of emulation we might give. She has always had a heart full of love for the defenders of her country, and has responded to several calls for Decoration Day and Memorial addresses. She is inspirational, which oftentimes raises her to eloquence in address, and her words not only reach the understanding, but the hearts of her hearers. While health and strength lasts she will continue to proclaim the gospel of "Peace on earth and good will to men."

She was ordained at Six Mile near Bluffton in 1901, at the close of Conference held there, after taking the four years course of study as prescribed by the Board of Education. J. R. R.

REV. ELI THOMAS SPOHN

Of North Manchester, was born in Jay county, Ind., May 1, 1859. His father, John Spohn, died the following September. Four years later his mother married Andrew Metheny with whom she now lives in Argos, Ind. Eli was the youngest of four children and spent his boyhood days on the farm, At 25 he was married to Mary Alice Metzger, of Larwill, Ind. They have two children, Mary, aged 17, and Clarence, aged 13.

Brother Spohn was converted when a boy and at the age of 21 preached his first sermon in the old school house in Tippecanoe, Ind., in a meeting held by Rev. Reed, a Christian minister. He was a member of the M. E. church until 1899 when he, with his family, united with the North Manchester Christian church. He served this church as pastor one year, and while not now having any pastoral work he is assisting other pastors very acceptably. He was admitted to Conference in 1901 as an ordained minister. He is a man of wide experience and excellent ability.

REV. C. V. STRICKLAND

Was born in Easton, Pa., in 1848. At the early age of 14 he enlisted as a drummer boy in the Union army serving about two years. He was wounded in the battle of Chancellorsville and later spent four months a prisoner of war in Libby at Richmond. A few years after the close of the war he came to Indiana. In 1877 he entered Eel River Conference at Sugar Grove church near Collamer as a licentiate. The next year at Murray, he was ordained. Rev. George Abbott, who had received both Brother and Sister Strickland into the Christian church at Wakarusa and who baptized them, acted as forman of the ordination committee.

Brother Strickland has been in the active work ever since, nearly all his time being given to churches in Eel River and the North Western Indiana Conferences. For about 18 months he labored in Iowa and was a member of the DesMoines Conference.

He has met with good success. One year's work should receive special notice. Assisted by his wife, meetings were held at Argos, Burrows, Shiloh and Eel River, all in the North Western Conference, when nearly 400 members were received into the churches mentioned. Although this was a year of great blessings, other excellent meetings have been held by them.

He is still in the active work as pastor of several churches and resides for the second time in Huntington which is to be his last place of residence upon earth. He and his family are members of the Huntington church. He is a member of the N. W. I. Conference but as he resides within the bounds of Eel River the probablities are that he will bring his membership back at the next annual session.

He has been interested in music, practically all his life, having made it a special study. His publications of Gospel song books, Anthem books, Children's Day and Christmas programs, etc., have reached a wide circulation. His name, especially among our own people has become a household word because of his wide acquaintance and the many beautiful songs he has written.

REV. JOSEPH SPENCER

Was received into conference in 1848. He presided over several sessions and was a man of talent aiding largely in building up our cause. He was granted a letter of commendation and dismissal in 1856.

REV. WILLIAM C. SMITH

Of the Jefferson Christian church, Cass county, Mich., was received a licentiate in 1852. His name was dropped in 1855, having moved to Bloomington, Ill.

REV. MARY A. STRICKLAND

Has been in the ministry during the past 18 years. While her husband was pastor at Bluffton, Ind., she was encouraged to speak in public, which she did, showing such marked ability that the congregation urged her to enter the ministry. She entered this Conference as a licentiate in 1884 and was ordained at Wakarusa in 1885, Rev. George Abbott acting as chairman of the ordaining committee. Ever since she has been serving as pastor of different churches and besides doing much special evangelistic work. Brother and Sister Strickland have generally arranged their work so that they could both serve the same churches, thus having a convenient double work. Mrs. Strickland has always had more calls than she could serve and has met with marvelous success, loved by all her people. During the past few years her work has been so extensive that she required an assistant. Miss Emma Isenberg has been her companion in much of her work as Brother Strickland could not be with her in all her meetings on account of his many duties. During the past winter (1901-02) she has received nearly 100 members into the church.

She is the mother of two sons and one daughter, who are grown and caring for themselves. She has a model home which she enjoys very much at such times when she can be there. It is often said that Brother and Sister Strickland are a power in a meeting, he to do the singing and she the preaching. She is at present a member of the North Western Indiana Conference and belongs to the Huntington Christian church.

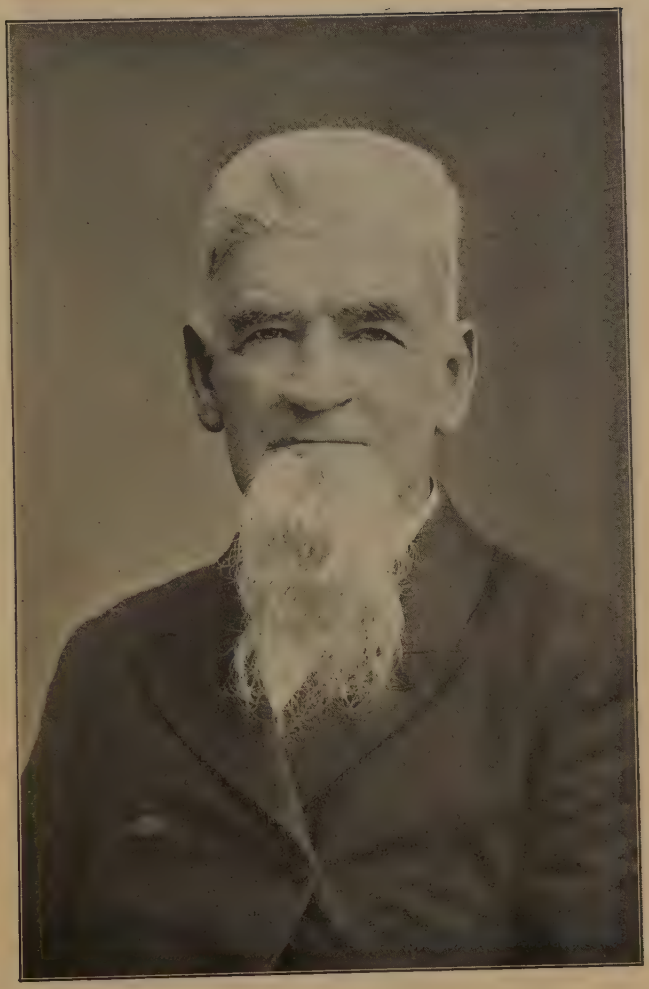
Mrs. Strickland has a summer cottage on Lake Manitau where she often recuperates in taking needed rest. This in no way interferes with her work as she can reach her appointments from there. May the Lord spare her for many years in the Master's cause.

REV. JOHN H. SINGER

Of North Manchester, Ind., came recommended by the Antioch church and was accepted as a licentiate in 1876. He was ordained at the Union church in 1880. He attended Union Christian college and was an able young man. In 1881 he went to Kansas and two years later was granted a letter as he wished to join a more convenient conference.

REV. GEORGE B. STEWART

Of Wakarusa, was born at Indianapolis. He entered Conference as a licentiate in 1873 and was ordained in 1877. He did good and faithful work until 1881 when his name was stricken from the roll. He now resides at Wakarusa and is an attorney.



REV. D. W. FOWLER, (Deceased)

Wabash, Indiana.

REV. MARY A. TOMPKINS

Was born in Yates county, N. Y. Her father was a distiller, but became a christian and a Prohibitionist later in life. Mrs. Tompkins' alma Mater was Hillsdale college, Mich. She holds two diplomas, one collegiate, the other theological. She was a teacher for eight years in the schools of Michigan, being superintendent of the Coldwater high school one year.

She entered Eel River Conference as a licentiate in 1896 and was ordained at Paw Paw in 1897.

She very acceptably served the Bellville and Olivet churches as pastor, and has assisted largely in building up the church at Elkhart, her home, giving much of her means and time to its welfare.

Sister Tompkins is an active worker for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She is at present franchise superintendent of the State W. C. T. U. work and treasurer of the Winona Assembly W. C. T. U. She is an able lecturer and writes much for the newspapers. She is an untiring worker for reformation and the establishment of the gospel. In 1895 she went to London as a delegate to the World's W. C. T. U. convention for Indiana, and visited some interesting points in Europe. Sister Tompkins has a paying millinery business in Elkhart, and makes the money she spends in the Lord's cause, for she says it is His. She is also the president of the Women's Home and Foreign Mission Board of this Conference.

REV. Dr. P. L. WERT

Of Waterford, Ind., became a licentiate of Conference in 1864. He remained with us as a licentiate for a number of years, ever loyal and faithful to the Christian church until his death.

REV. M. N. WOOLEY

Of Denver, Ind., united with conference as a licentiate in 1876. Two years later his name was dropped, he having united with the Tippecanoe Conference.

REV. HILEY BAKER

Was born in Noble County, Ind., Feb. 18, 1877. At an early age he graduated from the common school, afterward taught school and later finished the high school course in 1899. Previous to the time of his conversion, in 1898 under the preaching of Rev. David Hidy, he was an active worker in the church and a teacher of a class of young ladies, five of whom were converted the following winter.

In November 1900 he began his work in the course of study as adopted by the Eel River Christian Conference. Was granted license in August 1901 and is still pursuing the course. He is the present pastor of the Thorn Creek Christian church.

REV. CHARLES F. WOOD

Was licensed in 1851 and ordained in 1858. Two years later he asked for a letter and united with the Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan Conference,

REV. WILSON D. SAMUEL

Was born in Madison county, Ind., April 29, 1851. He was the son of William Samuel, whose godly life and stalwart character were in large measure given to his son. His mother was a deeply pious woman, in whose prayers were found the best safe-guard and richest possibilities for his youth time and early manhood. From a mother's prayers a boy seldom breaks away, for into his life she so thoroughly breathes the fervor of her soul, the strength of her life and the love of her heart, that he finds himself firmly moored. Whether fortunate or otherwise, he was left fatherless when but sixteen years old and upon his young heart and inexperienced hands were laid the duties and obligations of the home, all of which he discharged with a bravery and promptness which have characterized all his life's work. It is the misfortune of some children that their fathers survive their infancy, and as the great and good Garfield said in speaking of his own experience, "Nine times out of ten, the best thing that can happen to a young man is to be cast overboard and be compelled to sink or swim for himself." In such an emergency, the really worthy show the fiber of their souls and the stuff of which they are made. By a large majority, the world's messiahs of science, of law, of literature, of medicine, of benevolence, have been compelled to depend upon themselves and God for the success of every undertaking, among whom may be numbered Rev. W. D. Samuel.

He was married to Mary J. Funk, of Wabash county, Ind., September 17, 1871, to whom he has been a husband, true and tried, obeying the divine injunction, "Husbands, love your wives." He has received from his devoted wife only that confidence and inspiration

which a true husband so thoroughly appreciates, and which a gospel preacher so much needs. He was converted to God and joined the Eel River Christian church in 1874, then under the pastoral care of Rev. David Hidy, who has a warm place in his heart today, as he has had through all these years. A conviction to preach the gospel, with the earnest request of those who recognized his ability, led him to enter the ministry in 1876, he preaching his first sermon December 24th of that year. He joined the Eel River Conference and was given license in August, 1877, and was ordained at Murray, Ind., August, 1878, Revs. James Atchison, George Abbott, David Hidy, Thomas Whitman and Peter Winebrenner officiating. He has served his Conference in many official capacities, of which mention may be made of a two years presidency and four years as secretary. He served a term of four years as president of the Indiana State Conference, in all of which he acquitted himself with honor and dealt impartially with all questions and parties.

For the first four years of his ministry he coupled with his work as pastor, the duties of the farm. This condition of his early life, when churches failed to compensate their servants and the lack of a pastorate system necessitated many weary miles of travel, demonstrated the piety, heroism and Christian loyalty of the man who endured such hardness without the thought of giving up. He has had charge, beside the country churches of his early ministry of some of the best churches of the west, including Bluffton, North Manchester and Warren in Indiana, and Covington and Eaton in Ohio, the last named being his present charge. He was elected President of the Christian Publishing Association in 1898, but soon resigned the position to become its Agent and a member of its Board of Trustees. His success as an Agent is clearly established by the records of "The House" but it was to him an unpleasant task, for the reason that he felt called of God to preach the gospel, and not to keep accounts and sell books. He gave up the agency to accept the call to Eaton, but still retains his membership on the Board of Trustees. His frankness, kindness, sincerity and honest dealings have won for him not only the esteem of the churches, but of his fellow laborers in the holy calling. The pulpit is his throne and never did king occupy it with greater dignity or happier heart than does he. He is blessed with a good voice which he knows how to use, not only in sermon but in song as well, and of the fifteen hundred souls he has received into fellowship, it may be that the song has shared equal with the sermon. In the pulpit he is graceful and dignified in his movements and delivery, and withal deeply earnest and impressive. His sermons are biblical and well illustrated. His style is vigorous but not boistrous. His pronounciation is distinct, his language choice and his utterance deliberate. His thoughts are fresh and forceful, his argumentation close and commanding, and his rhetoric inspiring and brilliant. He teaches practical lessons, drops golden thoughts, keeps his hearers interested. No one listening to his well prepared sermons delivered as they are, with heart and voice all aglow and countenance flushed with fervor, would ever think that his early education was limited to a few months in the district school. But it was, yet he has been a student of books and men, and may in a very correct sense be called an educated man. He is progressive in all his plans, occupying

advanced positions all along the lines of church work, and when one has come up to where he is, he has come near the front line of our ministry. As John G. Whittier said of Vice President Wilson, so may we say of Wilson D. Samuel:

"The lowliest born of all the land,
He wrung from Fate's reluctant hand
The gifts which happier boyhood claims;
And, tasting on a thankless soil
The bitter bread of unpaid toil,
He fed his soul with noble aims.

By the low hearth-fire's fitful blaze
He read of old heroic days,
The sage's thought, the patriot's speech;
Unhelped, alone, himself he taught,
His school the craft at which he wrought,
His lore the book within his reach.

With glance intuitive he saw
Through all disguise of form and law,
And read men like an open book;
Fearless and firm, he never quailed
Nor turned aside for threats, nor failed
To do the thing he undertook."

J. F. Burnett.

REV. MATTIE VANDEVERE

Was born in Lawrence connty, Ill., in 1860. She united with the Christian church in 1887 and the next year became a licentiate of this Conference. She was ordained at North Manchester in 1890. She served as pastor of a number of churches and in 1893 attended Union Christian college. Later she was pastor at Xenia and Greentown.

She was an untiring worker in the Master's cause and went to her reward in 1898.

REV. AMOS VANSICKLE

Of the Central Ohio Conference united with Eel River Conference in 1856. Two years later his name was dropped from the roll.

REV. JOHN A. WOOD

Was born on a farm in Ulster county, N. Y., Jan. 1, 1837. He had the ordinary opportunities of a country boy in obtaining his early education. Being of a studious mind he embraced every opportunity for acquiring knowledge and became quite proficient in the study of history. At the age of 15 he was regarded as authority on both ancient and modern history.

At fifteen he was converted in a Methodist meeting and at the age of eighteen he was licensed to preach. He spent four years of hard work in Wyoming Theological Seminary, graduating with honors.

Coming west in 1875, he settled in Indiana, uniting later with Eel River Christian Conference. He has been the able pastor of some of our best churches and is at present acceptably serving North Manchester, New Madison and Antioch. He is thoroughly in harmony with the principles of the Christian church and takes great delight in preaching them to the people. Though having spent more than forty years in preaching and teaching, he is still young in physical and mental activities. He is a thorough believer in an itelligent, educated, God-fearing ministry.

SQUIRE WOOD

Became a licentiate in this Conference in 1845 and was ordained the same year. He remained an active, faithful member until his death in 1856.

REV. JESSE WAY

United with Eel River Conference as a licentiate in 1877. The record contains no further report until 1880 when his name was stricken from the roll.

REV. MORRIS M. WILES

Was born near Kirklin, Clinton county, Ind., in 1864. He received a common school education, and at the age of 15 united with the Sugar Creek Christian church, of which church he still remains a member. At the age of 24 he was licensed to preach the gospel by the Indiana Miami Reserve Conference, in session at Center, Ind. He was ordained to the ministry the following year at Hillisburg, Ind. Rev. Wiles has been continuously engaged in the ministry, serving churches in different Conferences with marked success. His greatest revival was one held with the Scotland church in the W. I. C. C. in which 47 persons were added to the church in fifteen days. He became an honorary member of Eel River Conference in 1901, and during the past year has been serving as pastor of the Clear Creek and Kelso churches. Brother Wiles has the most complete library of any minister in I. M. R. Conference and shows marked ability in his calling.

REV. CYRUS SMITH

United with this conference in 1890 as a licentiate. He reported as preaching some for 3 years. His name was dropped from the roll in 1895.

REV. CURTIS B. SAMUEL

United with Eel River conference in 1894 as a licentiate. In 1895 his name was dropped from the roll upon motion of the executive board.

REV. WILLARD W. STUART

United with the Eel River Conference as a licentiate in 1888 and was ordained in 1891. He served as pastor of Beuna Vista, Millersburg, Millwood, Pleasant Hill, North Union, Pleasant Grove, Eel River, Leesburg, Spring Hill, Paw Paw, and Goshen in this Conference and at Coloma, Lee Chapel and Lee Station in Michigan, organizing two churches. He has received into the church an average of 25 members each year for ten years. He served on the Board of Trustees for six years and has never missed a meeting of the board. Brother Stuart is doing efficient work in the Master's cause and now resides at Coloma, Michigan.

REV. COLUMBUS C. TARR

United with Eel River Conference as a licentiate in 1891 and was ordained at Wakarusa in 1893. Brother Tarr has served as pastor, the Millersburg, Pleasant Grove, North Webster, Broadway, Pleasant Hill and Spring Hill churches in this Conference and at Tiosa and New Carlisle in North Western Indiana Conference. He is the present efficient pastor of the Swayzee church.

REV. JAMES SCHEW

Was received a licentiate in 1853 and was ordained in 1854. Having joined the Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan conference his name was dropped in 1856.

REV. ALEXANDER SMITH

Became a licentiate in this conference in 1873. He reported until 1875 and two years later his name was stricken from the roll.

REV. DAVID WINEBRENNER

Was licensed to improve his gift of public speaking by the Merriam Christian church. He visited Conference in its sessions and took an active part in the business thereof and encouraging his son, P. Winebrenner, in the ministry. He, with Elders Gregory and Zeigler, recommended P. Winebrenner to Conference. David Winebrenner was the means of the organization of the Merriam church. He having heard of Rev. Peter Banta being at the Waterford church, Elkhart county, met Brother Banta there, succeeded in getting him to come to Wolf Lake and organize what is now known as the Merriam Christian church. His home was ever a home for gospel ministers, he did more for the Master's cause than some who were preaching. He was a warm exhorter and sometimes took a text from which to speak. In one sense, we may call him the father of the Merriam church. P. W.

REV. J. N. ULLERY

Was born in Miami county, Ohio, in 1849. He became a licentiate in this Conference in 1887 having come recommended by the Kelso church. He was ordained in 1888. The next year Conference witheld his license and his name was stricken from the roll of ministers.

ELDER SACKETT

United with this conference in 1846 and the next year was reported as having joined a Michigan conference.

REV. WILLIAM SHELLEY

Was a licentiate of the first conference session and his name was dropped in 1847.

REV. PETER WINEBRENNER

Of Merriam, Ind., was born in Liberty, Montgomery county, Ohio, October 6, 1826, and moved to Noble county, Indiana in the year 1837. He received a common school education and special tutorage from David Sanford and from Jonathan Elliott.

Elder Winebrenner is a self-made man, having acquired his learning by close application, and hard study. He taught until he entered the ministry as a licentiate in 1857. Was ordained at the Clearcreek Christian church in 1858. Ordaining committee, Elders Moses McDaniel, James H. Gregory, Thomas Whitman. He has mastered the German and Greek languages and partially mastered the Latin.

By invitation he has preached in the cities of Philadelphia, and Brooklyn, also in Canada. He spoke at the dedication of the School of the Prophets at Stanfordville, N. Y. He also preached at the Quadriennial Convention in Oshawa, Canada, in 1869.

Rev. Winebrenner was pastor of the Merriam Christian church from 1869-1889,

besides this long pastorate of twenty years in succession, he preached for this church monthly for a couple of years and was its pastor again at a later petiod for two years. He has also had charge of the Warren, Clearcreek, Murray, Kelso, Sidney, Leesburg, Millwood, Goshen and other churches of Eel River Conference. And was pastor of the Argos church in the North Western Conference for several years.

Rev. Winebrenner was elected secretary of the Conference in the year 1869, which office he held until Conference accepted his resignation in 1893, with the following resolution:

Resolved—"That this Conference tender a vote of thanks to Rev. Winebrenner for his faithful twenty-four years work as secretary of this Conference."

Elder Winebrenner has held four theological discussions. One in Newport, Page county, Virginia, where he met Elders Corliss and Lane, Seven day advents, (Lane was a brother of S. H. Lane, Advent minister of Indiana), he here arranged with them to discuss the Sabbath question, which discussion was held in 1877, beginning May 9th and ending May 12th, lasting four days, three sessions each day, forenoon, afternoon and night. Each speaking two hours each session. The first two days Corliss affirmed the Decalogue Sabbath as binding upon Christians in its sacred observance, Winebrenner denied. The last two days Winebrenner affirmed the sacred observance of the first day of the week, Corliss denied. This discussion resulted in the Advents abandoning that part of the country. He also discussed the same question with Adventist William Covert, near Anderson, Indiana, in a Disciple church. D. W. Fowler and G. Abbott were present at this discussion. He also discussed the same question with S. H. Lane, Advent, at Wolf Lake, Indiana. The fourth discussion was with Comstock, Advent minister at Nelson, Cloud county, Kansas, in the year 1879. Subject—"Resolved that the Kingdom of Heaven is set up on earth." Winebrenner affirmed. Resolved, "That the Scriptures teach that the soul of man is unconscious after death." Affirmed by Comstock. The result was the founding of a Christian church at that place. He visited Thayer, Iowa, to discuss in connection with Abbott, but opponents abandoned the field,therefore no discussion was held.

Elders Winebrenner and G. Abbott were co-workers together in the field of discussion and assisted each other in eight discussions. Winebrenner was usually a mild speaker, seldom giving out a challenge, but when challenged readily accepted, and was ever ready. The Seven Day Advents were eager to challenge, proclaiming that none dare discuss those questions with them, which they claimed, proved that they were right. But after a few days of the above discussions with them they ceased chalenging and refused to debate. Then, too, their prophetess, Ellen G. White, found that discussions were not profitable. Hence they stopped.

Elder Winebrenner during his forty-three years ministry has received over one thousand persons into church fellowship. Preached some four thousand sermons, always having charges, with no vacation except as sickness gave it. And now at the age of 75 years, by the blessing of the Divine Father and Son, he is still in the work and able to preach, and expects to continue preaching while the Master sees fit to give life and strength, and the people are willing to hear.

REV. W. D. SAMUEL,

Pastor Christian Church, Eaton, Ohio.

ELDER THOMAS WHITMAN

Was born in Darke county, Ohio, in 1823. He was educated in the common schools, and was converted and joined the Christian church in 1837. He entered the ministry in 1840 and was ordained at Fort Recovery, Ohio, in 1844.

When he first visited Eel River Conference in 1850, he was a member of the Tippecanoe Christian Conference. In 1852 he united with Eel River Conference and delivered the closing address of the session. Elder Whitman has been an ordained minister for 58 years and a faithful servant in Eel River Conference for 50 years. About the year 1853 he established a home near the Union Christian church, where he still resides. His home was ever a home for his ministering brethren. His good christian wife always took special pains to make it a pleasant and comfortable home for the weary pilgrim.

Elder Whitman has been an able sermonizer and exhorter and, though advanced in years, he is yet able in his preaching. His ability was recognized by this Conference in its annual session in 1899 when he was appointed to preach the Christian doctrine throughout its bounds, showing the implicit confidence in his ability to set forth and defend our beloved principles.

REV. G. W. TREASTOR

Became a licentiate member of Conference in 1884, recommended by the Six Mile church. In 1885 he asked for a letter of dismissal and was referred to the grievance committee. His name was dropped from the roll.

REV. JOHN S. THOMAS

United with this Conference and was licensed in 1866. In 1869 he reported "Health poor," in 1870 "preaching but little." He was ordained in 1874. No further report.

REV. WILLIAM J. YOUNG

Was born in Alliance, Ohio, September 28, 1867. His parents came to Indiana when he was yet a babe and settled in St. Joseph county, subsequently residing at Bremen and at Wakarusa. He received a good common school education and at the age of 16 began teaching in the public schools, which profession he followed for fifteen years.

He united with the Wakarusa Christian church in 1887. In 1889 he was married to Nettie Nusbaum Clay.

During the summer of 1895 he began the course of study outlined by this Conference and was admitted to Eel River Conference as a licentiate at its session at Warren. In 1897 he completed the course and was ordained in Father Amber's grove near the Paw Paw church. At this session he was elected assistant secretary, which office he held four years. He has been especially active in the interests of Christian Endeavor, having had charge of that department of Conference work since 1895. His first pastorate was his home church at Wakarusa, which he served acceptably one year, when he took charge of the Huntington and Clear Creek churches, serving the latter three years, and is now giving full time to the Huntington church. He was selected by this church as her pastor for the coming year, 1902–03, but soon afterward resigned his pastorate to take effect in August, 1902, that he might accept a call from the Conneaut, Ohio, Christian church. The resignation of Rev. Young was with reluctance accepted by the Huntington church.

Brother Young's work is characterized by earnest consecration and activity in every department; which, united with his genial disposition makes him generally loved and respected by all who know him. He is one of our rising young ministers with bright prospects for his future. J. F. B.

REV. PHILIP ZEIGLER

Of the Miami, Ohio, Christian Conference, visited the Eel River Conference in 1850. The next year he united with it and was chosen a number of times to give the annual address. In 1855 he was chosen president.

He was one of the pioneers of the Merriam church which was known in an early day as the Christian church near Wolf Lake. His wife was a daughter of Rev. Father Miles and Rev. William Miles was her brother. She was a noble Christian woman. In 1868 Brother Zeigler moved with his family to Wabash where he acted as pastor of the Christian church. From Wabash he removed to McLallen's Corners, Erie county, Pa., where he served as pastor of a church. Here his second wife died and was brought to Merriam for burial. In Conference session of 1894 a letter was received from him and read before the body. He spoke of his former relations with this body when not a church building was to be found in the conference field and only a few hundred members. He said that he had preached 3,500 sermons and had received over 700 persons into the Conference. And that when he dies his remains are to be brought to the Merriam cemetery. He also requested that one of the following brethren officiate at his funeral: Winebrenner, Whitman, Atchison, Hidy or Samuel. Just one year after receiving this communication, while conference was in session at Warren a message came asking for one of the above named brethren to preach his funeral. Rev. Winebrenner responded. Thus was his request granted.

He had a weak body being a cripple all his life. Yet undaunted he went on. And often in his younger days he was thrown from his horse while riding to his appointments rendering him almost helpless. Still he ceased not to preach Christ and him crucified until his death. He was an able preacher and an upright citizen. He left two sons and two daughters. One of his sons, William Zeigler, is a faithful member of the Merriam church.

REV. ABRAHAM TABLER

Was received as a licentiate in 1851 and was ordained in 1853. His name was dropped in 1856, he having joined the Wesleyan Methodists.

REV. EDMUND THATCHER

Became a licentiate in this Conference in 1846. His name was dropped in 1853, he having united with the Northern Indiana and Southern Michigan Conference.

REV. WILLIAM H. TURNEY

Coming with credentials from the U. B. church was licensed in 1886. No further mention is made of him in the records

REV. GEORGE WILLIS

Became a licentiate in 1861. He reported for the succeeding two years, after which time his name does not enter the record.

REV. A. J. WILSON

Became a licentiate in 1855 and his name was dropped from the roll of ministers the next year.

REV. J. E. THOMAS

Became a member of Conference in 1850 and his name was dropped from the roll of ministers in 1852.

REV. WILLIS THOMSON

Was one of the first licentiate members of Eel River Conference. Records show nothing further.

REV. M. K. ZERGER

Of Laud, Whitley county, Ind., became a licentiate member of this Conference in 1877. He reported as preaching but little and in 1882 his name was dropped from the roll.

JAMES FRANK BARNES

Very few members of the Christian churches of Eel River Christian Conference in recent years have struggled more nobly to achieve success in life and an honored position among men than has the subject of this sketch. Although surrounded by many discouragements in his boyhood days yet by an indomitable will and unceasing energy he has built for himself a noble christian character and has won the esteem and respect of all who know him.

J. F. Barnes was born in Huntington county, Ind., November 26, 1862. He is the son of John and Malinda Barnes, who are still living and reside near Huntington, Ind. His early life was spent on the farm, attending district school in winter and working at the usual farm work in the summer. He early developed an earnest desire for an education and improved all his leisure time in reading and study,often studying until late at night that he might accomplish his cherished desire of fitting himself to teach. In this he was successful having secured his first teacher's license at the age of twenty. From this time on he continued to teach for fifteen consecutive years, usually two and three terms in succession in the same district. He was united in marriage with Lucy A. Stewart, March 29, 1885. To this union four children have been born, all of whom are living

He was chosen a member of the Conference Executive Board at Warren in 1895, which position he has held continuously ever since. At the session held in 1896 he was elected assistant secretary and the year following was elected to the office of Conference Secretary which position he still holds. He also served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Eel River Sunday School Association from 1896 to 1899. His work

has always been characterized by energy and faithfulness in all its phases. He has been superintendent of the Huntington Christian Sunday School for the past ten years and has been very successful in building up this part of the church work. He is also serving as treasurer of the Huntington church at the present time. On January 1, 1899, he resigned his position as teacher and entered the county treasurer's office as deputy, which responsible position he is still filling with the hearty approval of both his employer and the public in general.

He united with the Huntington Christian church in 1891, of which he has been a faithful and active member ever since. He is one of those men that can meet and overcome opposition and at the same time exhibit that high type of christian manhood that is always a joy to behold. Mr. Barnes is now in the prime of life and it is to be hoped that he will be spared many days, as he is a strong support to our church and Conference.

O. W. W.

JOHN BURNS

Was born in Clark county, Ohio, and moved with his parents to Elkhart county, Ind., in 1832, where he assisted his step-father to erect the first flouring mill on the Elkhart river in that county.

The Christian church at Waterford was organized October 9, 1842, and in November of that year he united with the church and was chosen as one of her deacons, in which capacity he served until his death, which occurred October 17, 1878. He was 63 years of age at the time of his death and left a devoted wife, three sons and four daughters, who sorrow not as those who have no hope.

Brother Burns was a careful and prayerful student of the Bible and tried to live according to its teachings. He was a good man, with an unimpeachable character. He was industrious and frugal in his own affairs, leaving besides an untarnished name, the farm which he settled and cleared, to his family. He was a wise counsellor in the affairs of the church and the financial affairs were always entrusted to him. His funeral procession was thought by some to be the largest ever seen in the county. Elder W. S. Manville conducted the services and preached from I Thess. 4:13-14.

SYLVESTER BLACKMAN

Son of Elisha and Amy Blackman, was born in York township, Noble county, Ind., October 6, 1842. He was reared on his father's farm until December 23, 1863, when he enlisted in Co. B, 12th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He faithfully served his county twenty months, or until the close of the war. He was with Sherman in his famous march to the sea and was in a number of the fiercest battles of the Rebellion. He was honorably discharged at Louisville, Ky., July 15, 1865. Since the war he has prospered in farming and now owns a beautiful farm of 177 acres in his native township. He was married to Mary J. Burns, Oct. 29, 1869. To this union seven children have been born: Ella, the wife of Emmet Black; Joseph E., Frank E., William, Gertrude, Thaddeus G. and Anna E.

Brother Blackman and wife are both loyal members of the Sparta Christian church. He is also a member of the Masonic and Knights of Pythias orders and a member of Warden Post, No. 205, G. A. R. He was elected a Trustee of Eel River Conference, August, 1899.

JONAS W. AND OLIVE GRIFFITH

Of Warren, Ind., have been members of the Christian church for twenty years, uniting under the labors of Elder J. L. Puckett. Their christian life has ever been marked by loyalty and self-sacrificing zeal in the service of Christ. In the days when the church most needed encouragement, they were faithful. Brother Griffith has served the church as Sunday School Superintendent at different times and has ever been concerned for its spiritual welfare. Since he was chosen deacon, he has used his office well and maintained great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus. Sister Griffith has served the church for the past twelve years on the financial and missionary committees. She has been teaching the infant class for seventeen years and is also identified with the home class and cradle roll departments of the S. S. work, having for some time been superintendent of the cradle roll department of 82 members and is taking great interest in the little ones. Her labors have also been of a general character, having canvassed for the *Herald of Gospel Liberty* and otherwise serving the publishing house in many ways.

Brother and Sister Griffith are in the prime of life and have the promise of many years of useful and happy service in the Master's vineyard. They both have a wide acquaintance within the bounds of Eel River Conference.

JACOB M. BROWN

The subject of this sketch, was born September 20th, 1850, in Rahrersburg, Penn. When he was one year old his parents moved to Montgomery Co., Ohio, where they resided until he was eight years of age. After the death of his father the family came to Indiana and settled on a farm in Wells county, near Murray. His first occupation was a school teacher, but in 1875 went to Markle, Ind., and engaged in the mercantile business. August 21, 1877, he was married to Miss Clara Myers, of Bluffton, Ind. In 1882 he came to Bluffton, Ind., at which city he still resides, being manager of the Frees feed barn at 128 E. Wabash street. In 1895 he, with his wife and daughter, united with the First Christian church of Bluffton. He was the founder and first president of the society known as the Eel River Christian Sunday School Association. In the summer of 1895 he was elected trustee of the Eel River Christian Conference, which position he still holds.

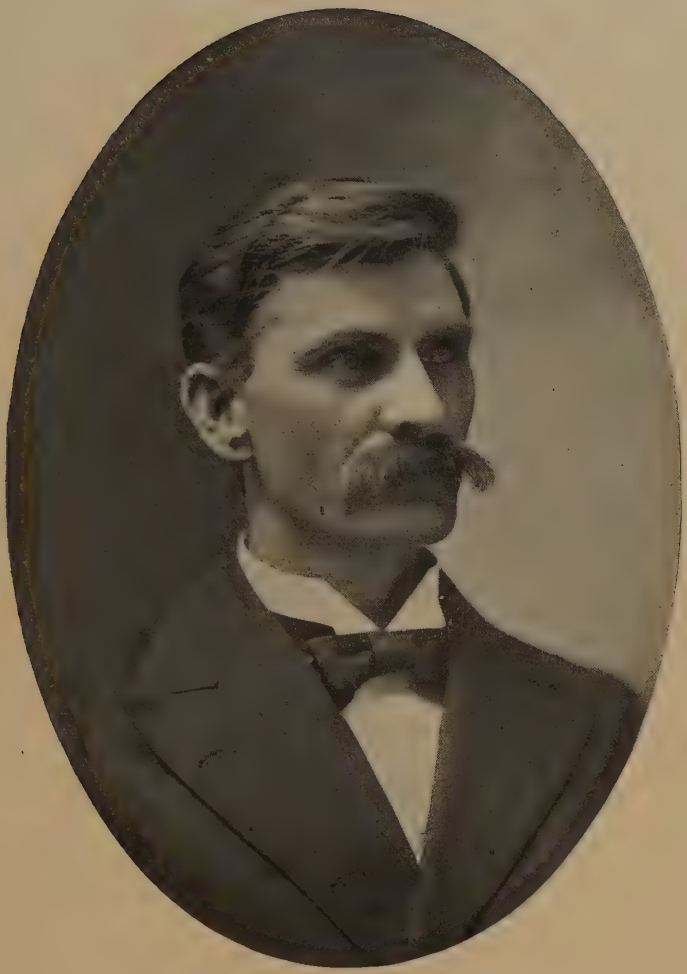
RICHARD T. ADAMS

Was born in Mishawaka, Ind., June 12, 1849. His parents died when he was a small child and at the age of 5 years he took up his home with Rankin Hoover in Chester township, Wabash county, Ind. Despite the poor school facilities afforded in his childhood and youth he gained a liberal education. Having been reared a farmer, he has followed that vocation all his life and is today one of the most progressive farmers of Chester township and possesses a well improved farm of 160 acres. He is a public spirited man, an earnest, honest, christian citizen and holds the respect of not only his immediate neighbors but of all who know him.

He is deeply interested in the affairs of his township and is a strong supporter of the public schools and takes no little interest in politics and in the permanent improvement of the public roads. He has been a member of the board of drainage commissioners of his county since 1898, is one of the trustees of the Indiana State Bank, of North Manchester, and, socially, is an enthusiastic member of the Knights of Pythias and Knights of the Maccabees. He was united in marriage to Lida Hanley of his township, June 31, 1871. To this union ten children have been born, Marion T., Ida, wife of Joseph Dunbar; Laura, wife of John Goodman; Mary, wife of Lloyd Landis; Will F., Grace, Eva L., Stella, Hazel and Edna M.

Mrs. Adams was born in Fayette county, Ind., and was educated in the public schools. She is a woman of many excellent qualities and is thoroughly devoted to her husband and children, making for them a pleasant and happy home. She has a host of friends.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Adams are faithful and consistant members of the New Madison Christian church. Bro. Adams was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of this Conference in 1900.



REV. R. W. PAGE,

Pastor Merriam and Sparta Christian Churches,

Merriam, Indiana.

MISS GERTRUDE BICKEL

Daughter of Simon and Jennie Bickel, was born March 9, 1882. She lives with her parents about two miles east of Bluffton, and is a member of the Six Mile Christian church and one of the active workers of the church.

During the past year she has been taking a course at the Huntington Business University. Miss Bickel secured more subscriptions for our Conference history than any other solicitor.

WILLARD W. DOLL

Was born in Sparta township, Noble county, Ind., January 26, 1863. He has lived in the vicinity of the Sparta church ever since he was four years old. In 1884 he married his Sunday School teacher and together, on December 28, 1886, they united with the church. His parents and three sisters also united at the same time, all under the labors of Elder George Abbott.

Brother Doll has been an enthusiastic Sunday School worker all his life and, since uniting with the church, has been either a superintendent or a teacher continually, and attributes his present standing due to being constantly engaged in responsible places. He has an excellent family of five children and says if needs be he can have a Sunday School of his own at home, his eldest being an excellent organist, and all good singers. He is a man of strong Christian characteristics and full of the grit and courage that will enable him to stand until the end.

JOHN DORSEY

Was born August 7, 1842, near Liberty Mills, Ind., where he lived until about five years of age when he moved with his parents to Ohio, here he resided until grown to manhood.

On the call of President Lincoln for troops, young Dorsey at once responded and enlisted in the 87th Ohio Volunteers. He remained with his regiment until Harper's Ferry surrendered in September, 1862, at which time he was taken a prisoner of war. Later in the war he again enlisted, this time in the 35th Indiana, with this regiment he served about one year. In 1863 Mr. Dorsey moved to Indiana settling near Oswego where he has made his home ever since, now nearly thirty-four years.

Mr. Dorsey has been a member of the Christian church nearly twenty-five years and has been among her most staunch supporters. He was elected a member of the Board of Trustees of Eel River Christian Conference at the annual session held with the Sparta Christian church in 1899. Since his election he has been a faithful and useful member of the board.

A. P. WILLARD JONES

Was born in Huntington county, Ind., August 10, 1857. His parents were among the earliest settlers of his native county, settling where the town or Warren now stands. He was raised on a farm and acquired an excellent common school education. In 1882 he was united in marriage to Margaret E. Sutton, of near Huntington. To this union four children have been born, Lois, Howard, Lloyd and Ruth.

Brother Jones united with the Clear Creek Christian church in December, 1895, and together with his faithful wife, has since been thoroughly devoted to his Master and to the best interests of the church. There is not a more loyal member of the Christian church to be found than Brother Jones. He has been variously connected with his local church officially and is at present serving as church clerk and superintendent of the Sunday School. At the session of Conference with the Six Mile church, in 1901, he was elected a member of the Executive Board. He resides on an excellent farm of his own in Clear Creek township, Huntington county, and by his thrift, economy, practical sense and sound judgment, is succeeding well, holding the respect of his neighbors and of all who know him. He is as liberal with his gifts to the interests of his church as his means will justify and is exceedingly anxious for the material and spiritual welware of our beloved Zion. W. J. Y.

B. F. HUMBARGER

Was born and reared on a farm in Whitley county, Ind. His occupation is farming and like most farmers he is vigorous in mind and body. He thinks and acts for himself, and loves the liberty of the Christian church. Under the preaching of Elder Peter Winebrenner he became a member of the old Sugar Grove Christian church, but afterward for convenience changed his membership to the Pleasant Grove Christian church, of which he is now a member. Mr. Humbarger is an active church worker and one of the substantial supporters of his church. His prominence in his own church led to his election as a member of the Board of Trustees at the annual Conference held at Sparta in August, 1899, to fill the unexpired term of Joseph Knight. At the end of this short term he was re-elected for the full term of three years at Millersburg in 1900. As an officer of Conference he is painstaking and conservative, a worthy member of the board.

W. H. LA FONG

Was born in Green county, Ohio, January 28, 1844. He came to Indiana in October, 1859, and settled in Noble county where he has since resided. He was married to Sarah E. Gloyd, October 8, 1863, and to this union were born two sons and one daughter. His wife died in 1895. Four years later he was again married to Mrs. Susan Stuff. Brother La Fong united with the Sparta Christian church in 1865 and is one of the charter members of the second organization which was formed in 1878. He has served this church as treasurer ever since its organization save two years. He has also served as a deacon for seven years and has been a member of the Executive Board of Eel River Conference three years. Brother La Fong is a prosperous farmer and a conscientious Christian gentleman.

JOHN P. KITT

Was born in Clark county, Ohio, August 14, 1825, and with his parents emigrated to Noble county, Ind., in 1846, settling upon the farm where he now resides. He was married to Elizabeth Hively, January 6, 1853, she having been born in Fairfield, Ohio, May 3, 1830, and having come to Indiana with her parents in 1840. To this union were born ten children, six sons and four daughters, of which number two daughters and one son died in infancy. Brother Kitt united with the Merriam Christian church in 1861, and has been a faithful member of the church, filling several of its offices and aiding in the erection of two places of worship, the first a frame and the second the present substantial brick. He has always been liberal in helping to defray the expenses of the church in all of her departments. Unless hindered by sickness, he has always attended all services of the church and Sabbath School, being active in the Master's cause. Brother Kitt has aided very materially in building up Eel River Christian Conference, both with his means and attendance at Conference session, having missed but one session since becoming a member.

He was elected treasurer of Conference in 1871 and served until 1888. He also acted as assistant secretary for twenty-six years, from 1865 to 1891. He also served on the Executive Board two terms and by virtue of his office was president of the Board. "Uncle" John P. Kitt, as he is familiarly known by those who are delighted to greet his presence at each succeeding Conference session, has certainly been loyal to and zealous in his church's interests. We need many more such earnest, honest workers in the Lord's vineyard.

P. W.

THOMAS JOHN

Was born in Jackson township, Huntington county, Ind., May 11, 1855. He moved with his mother to Kosciusko county, Ind., in September, 1866. He was married to Alice Swihart, May 18, 1876. They are the parents of three children, the eldest a daughter, Edith, was taken across the mystic River in her infancy. Mable Pearl Dunbar and Lewis J., a daughter and son, still survive. Brother John united with the Pleasant Grove Christian church in the year 1889, under the ministry of Rev. R. L. Amber. He was superintendent of the Pleasant Grove Sunday School for eight years. He served as treasurer of the Eel River Conference seven years. Is at present president of the North Manchester district of the Eel River Christian Conference Sunday School Association.

Brother John is an industrious farmer, having a fine farm and beautiful residence home near the church. His family are bright and intelligent, good entertainers, and have the happy faculty of making it pleasant for their guests. Brother John makes a specialty along with his farming of dealing in fine stock, and many beautiful horses are sent to the market from his stables. He has also found time during his busy life to study music in which he has become quite proficient. He is not only a fine singer, but is somewhat of a composer, as his published productions show. Mable, the daughter, is an accomplished pianist, a lady with many natural as well as cultivated gifts. Lewis, the youngest of the family, is a bright young man, educating himself for usefulness in which he cannot help but succeed.

Mrs. John is a woman of rare qualities, kindly of disposition, and her beautiful home tells of her tastes and culture. Their home has always welcomed to its kindly hospitality the ministers who may have had occasion to be their pastor, in which the writer has often shared.

Brother John is respected by all who know him, is a man of thought and good judgment, is apparently just in the prime of life and bids fair to live to good, honorable and ripe old age. The entire family have always been deeply interested in the welfare and prosperity of the home church and doing their utmost for its upbuilding and are good supporters. May the good Lord aid them in their loving work.

C. V. Strickland.

CALVIN PERDUE

Was born in Jackson township, Wells county, Ind., February 16, 1873. He is the son of Rev. William Perdue, of Warren, Ind. In 1892 he graduated from the high school of Warren. The next year was spent in mastering the details of book-keeping and business in the Indianapolis Business University. In 1894 he studied in the Normal College at Danville, Ind., during two terms. After returning to his home in Warren he began farming, in which he has ever since been engaged. He takes great interest in agricultural pursuits, and has been quite successful in producing various kinds of small fruits.

During the pastorate of Rev. John L. Puckett he united with the Christian church, and has been an active worker therein ever since.

Since the organization of the Christian Endeavor among the younger members of the Warren Christian church Mr. Perdue has taken a great interest in that work. For several terms he was president of the society. In 1900 he was elected C. E. evangelist of the Eel River Christian Conference, and was re-elected in 1901. He was elected recording secretary of the Fort Wayne district C. E. Union at the 16th annual convention held in Bluffton, December 31, 1901, and January 1, 1902. At the session of the Eel River Christian Conference held at Six Mile church, August, 1901, he was elected assistant secretary of Conference.

A. J. MAYS

Was born near the town of Millersburg, Ind., October 22, 1869. He attended district school until 19 years of age. Two years later he entered Union Christian College, Merom, Ind., where he remained two years, completing the commercial course. He united with the Millersburg Christian church in 1892 under the labors of Rev. J. J. Copeland, and still remains a faithful working member of that church. May 29, 1892, he was married to Miss Bertha B. Boroughs, of Merom, Ind., and together they took up their residence at Millersburg. He was elected a trustee of Eel River Conference in 1897, was re-elected in 1900, and has served as secretary of the Board of Trustees during the past four years. He is at present engaged in school teaching and is thoroughly devoted to the interests of the Christian church.

WILLIAM B. KNAPPE

The youngest but one in a family of nine children, was born in Noble county, Ind., April 8, 1851. He was raised on a farm and was educated in the district schools, acquiring a fair education which enabled him to teach for seven winters.

On September 14, 1876, he was married to Zillah A. Neal. Three sons and two daughters have come to bless their home.

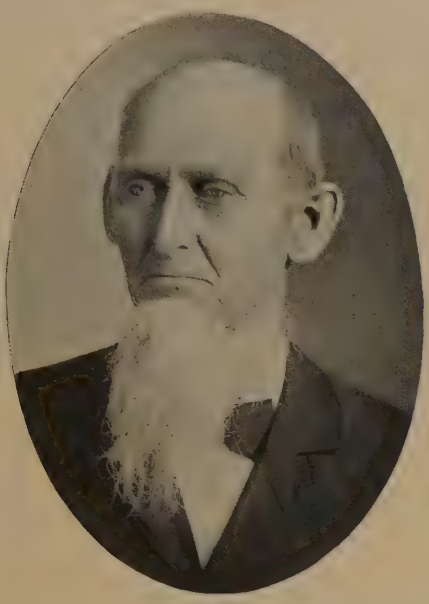
Under the labors of Elder P. Winebrenner in the Broadway Christian church in 1874, Brother Knappe was converted and united with the church. In 1875 he was elected the superintendent of the Broadway Sunday School and has served almost continuously in that capacity for twenty-five years. He was elected a trustee of Eel River Conference in 1898, and in 1900 was made treasurer of the Conference, which office he still fills to the satisfaction of all. Brother Knappe is a conscientious christian gentleman, intensely loyal to his church in all her interests.

MARTHA GILL

Wife of Reuben Gill, of Clear Creek township, was born January 14, 1822, in Campbell county, Ky., on a farm near the present town of Maysville. Her parents were John and Nancy Herndon. Her mother died in 1826 and soon after, she with her father, moved to New Richmond, Clermont county, Ohio. Here she lived until her father's death in about 1830. She then lived with her grandmother Herndon until about the year 1837, when she went to live with her uncle, Aaron Gregg, in Bracken county, Ky.

On December 3, 1840, she married Reuben H. Gill and two years later she with her husband moved to Clear Creek township, Huntington county, Ind., where they have lived ever since. She and her husband braved the hardships of pioneer days and have journeyed life's pathway together almost sixty-two years, making for themselves a home for their declining years. Mrs. Gill is the only surviving charter member of the Clear Creek Christian church.

Mrs. Gill has been a faithful and loyal member of this church since the day of its organization in Abraham Kaylor's barn in July, 1856. Although Mrs. Gill has passed the 80th mile stone in life's pilgrimage she takes great interest in her church. While her eyes have grown dim her spiritual vision is unimpaired and she looks forward with longing eyes to catch a glimpse of the "golden shore" where she expects to see her Master whom she has served so faithfully for so many years.



JONATHAN WHITELOCK

One of the most enthusiastic and influential members of the Huntington Christian church was born in Fayette county, Ind., July 8, 1830. He, with his parents, moved to Franklin county when he was a small boy, there he lived until manhood when he went to Wells county where he owned a tract of land. After partly clearing this he traded it for Huntington county land, which he still owns. He was married in February, 1856, to Miss Elizabeth A. Souers, and immediately moved into a log cabin upon his land where he lived for some time. He added to his original piece of land, tract after tract, until he became the owner of one of the largest and best improved farms in Rock Creek township. He with his wife lived on this farm until January, 1894, when they moved to a new residence he had built in the city of Huntington.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitelock were the parents of but one child, a son, O. W. Whitelock, president of this Conference. Mr. and Mrs. Whitelock joined the Plum Tree Christian church in 1875 and at once became leading members of the church, Mr. Whitelock being one of the principal supporters of the church. Mrs. Whitelock was a quiet, kind hearted christian woman, who read her Bible a great deal and lived out the Christ teachings in her every day life. Her home was the stopping place of the pastors of the Plum Tree church and many of them can testify to the christian hospitality of Mrs. Whitelock. She died July 3, 1900, at the age of 65 years, 1 month and eleven days, and was loved by all who knew her.

Mr. Whitelock was selected Snnday School superintendent before he became a member of church and after he united with the church he was continued as Sunday School superintendent and served altogether about ten years. He took great interest in the children during all these years, giving them many treats to gladden their young hearts. Although Mr. Whitelock is now 72 years old he still takes great in-

terest in the success of children and young people. He has been during these years of church membership a most earnest advocate of the principles of his church and a strong supporter of her interests. He was appointed by Conference at its session in 1890 on a committee to decide on a field or location for the establishing of a Christian church as a missionary work of the Conference. This committee met in the City of Huntington, and largely through the influence of Mr. Whitelock, decided upon Huntington as the most inviting point. The report of this committee was approved and was the beginning of the establishment of the Huntington Christian church.

Mr. Whitelock's second marriage was with Mrs. Sarah Jane Rittenhouse, widow of Joseph Rittenhouse, deceased. They reside in the family residence at Huntington. Although Mr. Whitelock is not able to attend all the services of the church he is almost always present at the preaching services and has not lost any of his zeal for the church. He hopes to live to see a beautiful house of worship erected for the Huntington Christian church. Much of his means and the strength of his declining years will be given to his beloved Zion. May he be permitted to live to realize the fulfillment of his cherished church plans and have the pleasure of enjoying the crowning success of his ideals before the Master says, "It is enough, come up higher."

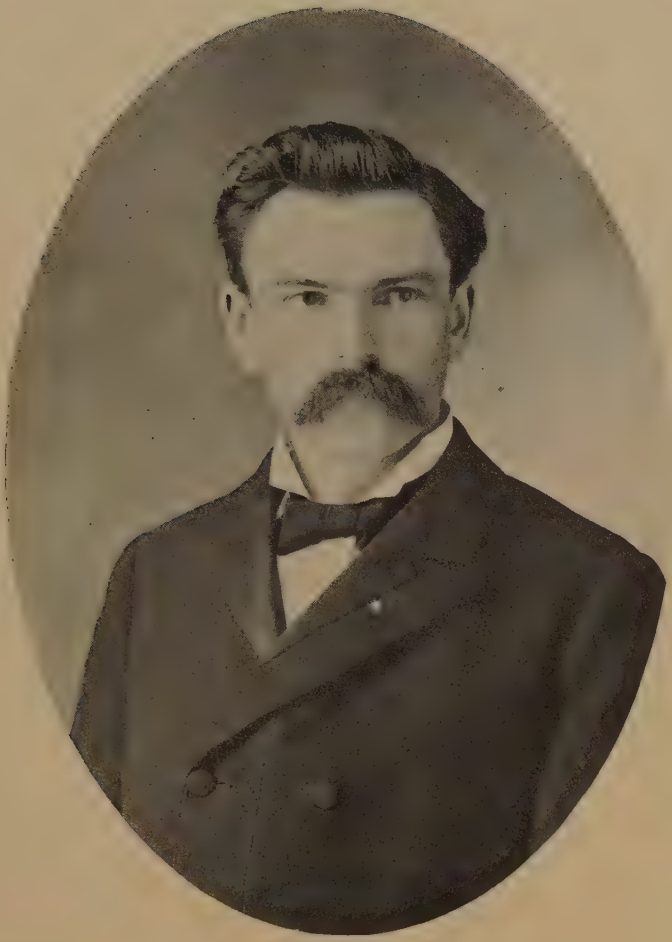
JENNIE MAUD WHITELOCK

Was born April 17, 1862, in Syracuse, N. Y. Her parents were Philo Sperry and Ester Neal Nottingham. Her father was a soldier in the rebellion, and died in the army of typhoid fever, May 3, 1863. Her mother died May, 1872. She was thus left an orphan at an early age. She made her home with her mother's sister, Jennie Robbins, in Mercer county, Ohio, until her marriage with O. W Whitelock in 1882. Her education was obtained at the district school until the age of sixteen. Afterward she attended normal at Lebanon, O., and Valparaiso, Ind., where she graduated in the scientific class of 1880. She is a charter member of the Huntington Christian church and an active worker in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

ORLANDO W. WHITELOCK

Spent the first fifteen years of his life on his father's farm at Plum Tree, Ind., where the writer has often been pleasantly entertained during six years of ministerial life as pastor of the Plum Tree church. It was there I first met the young attorney and formed an acquaintance that has always been pleasant and agreeable.

Brother Whitelock, at the age of



REV. D. B. ATKINSON,

Professor of Latin in U. C. College, Merom, Indiana.

15, entered the public schools of Bluffton which he attended during the fall and winter terms of 1872-73 and 1873-74. In the winter of 1874-75 he taught school in Rock Creek township and with the money earned was enabled to take two terms at the Lebanon, Ohio, Normal. Thus he could more fully appreciate the value of money, by earning it himself, which at the same time taught him the lesson of self-reliance.

During the winters of 1876 and 1877 he taught school in Salamonie township and during the following winter he was likewise engaged in Montgomery county, Ohio. In the spring of 1878 he entered the Northern Indiana Normal school at Valparaiso, Ind., graduating from the scientific department the following year. He then entered the freshmen's law class and continued for one year, when he returned home and entered the law office of Colonel Milligan and Alfred Moore at Huntington. Here he read one year and was admitted to the bar in 1880. He then entered the law department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and graduated in 1882.

This same year he formed a partnership with Colonel Milligan and at once begun a prosperous career as an attorney. The firm afterward was that of Milligan, Whitelock & Cook, which continued until Colonel Milligan retired from the practice. The junior member of the firm, Mr. Samuel E. Cook, is still associated with Mr. Whitelock in the practice of law. Recently Mr. Whitelock has given his attention largely to the newspaper business, being president and manager of the News Publishing Company and editor of the *Hnntington News-Dewocrat.*

He served as city attorney of Huntington for three years and was appointed by Governor Matthews as Judge of the Huntington circuit court, which position he filled with respect and dignity.

The law firm of which he is the head, has been the legal adviser for the county commissioners for a number of years.

When a young man he united with the Plum Tree Christian church under the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Heflin, on the evening of New Years Day, 1876. He is one of the leading charter members of the Christian church of Huntington which was organized in 1881. He is one of the main supporters of the church and his example as an active church member is one worthy of note, for so often a business man gives but little time to the detail of the affairs of the church, especially to attend prayer meeting. But Brother Whitelock finds time, and scarcely a meeting of any kind is held at his church but that he is present, proving the old adage, "Where there is a will, there is a way." Brother Young, our pastor, fully agrees with me, that he encourages by his presence and means, every enterprise of the church.

He has served as president of Eel River Christian Conference for eleven years, having been elected at the annual session at Collamer in 1891. At the meeting of the American Christian Convention at New Market, Canada, in 1898, he was unanimously elected a trustee of the Christian Publishing Association. And upon the resignation of Rev. W. D. Samuel as president in 1900, Mr. Whitelock was chosen to fill the office, in which capacity he is still serving. In 1901 he was elected a trustee of Union Christian College.

Brother Whitelock was married to Jennie M. Nottingham, of Mercer county, Ohio, June 1, 1882. Four children have come to bless their home.

Wilfred Jonathan, who is now a student in Union Christian College; Mary Etta, now a student in the Huntington high school and from which she will graduate in a short time; Clarence, also a pupil in the city schools, and Charles Nottingham.

Brother Whitelock and wife are careful and economical in raising their family, giving the children a good education. They have a pleasant home and have accumulated some property and expect in the near future to erect a beautiful, substantial, new residence.

Brother Whitelock is a liberal contributor to the church and he looks forth with pleasure to the time when a new church building, now in contemplation, shall be erected in Huntington, to which he will contribute liberally. He is still in the prime of life and bids fair to live a number of years of usefulness. Such is the wish of all who know him.

C. V. Strickland.

AUXILIARIES.

The Eel River Christian Conference has three auxiliary organizations, each carrying on its special work and greatly augmenting the work of the churches. They are: (1) The Women's Home and Foreign Mission Board; (2) The Sunday School Association of the Eel River Christian Conference; and (3) The Eel River Christian Endeavor Union,

THE WOMEN'S HOME AND FOREIGN MISSION BOARD

Was organized, August, 19, 1891. Its object, as expressed in its constitution, is to aid the home and foreign mission interests of the church "by raising money through subscriptions, donations and contributions." The organization, as the name signifies, is composed of loyal women of the churches throughout the Conference. The officers consist of a president, vice president, secretary and a treasurer. It began its existence with fifty charter members. The first officers were: Mrs. Mary E. Cook, of Bluffton, President; Mattie Vandevere, of Murray, Vice President; Nettie Bowser, of Collamer, Secretary and Mrs. Etta Ross, of Collamer, Treasurer..

Usually one evening during the annual Conference session is given over to this society, when a missionary program is rendered, reports are read and officers are elected. This board has raised quite a large sum of money during the past eleven years of its organization, which has been judiciously given to our various missionary enterprises. The present officers are as follows: President, Mrs. M. A. Tompkins, Elkhart; Vice President, Mrs. Hannah Dohner, Collamer; Secretary, Mrs. Nettie Young, Huntington; Treasurer, Mrs. Mina Young, Merriam.

THE EEL RIVER CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Was organized at the annual session of Conference at the Paw Paw church, August, 1897.

J. M. Brown, of Bluffton, suggested the organization of such an

association for the promotion of our Sunday school interests. After the matter was quite thoroughly discussed in open conference, the president appointed a Sunday school board or committee to have this matter in charge. Each county in the Conference in which schools are maintained was represented on this committee which was as follows: Wells county, J. M. Brown, of Bluffton, who was made President; Huntington county, J. F. Barnes, of Huntington, who was made Secretary and Treasurer; Adams county, Alice Runyon, Lynn Grove; Elkhart county, F. T. Atkinson, Wakarusa; Noble county, Wm. B. Knappe, Cromwell; Wabash county, E. W. Brown, North Manchester; Whitley county, Alfred Ross, Collamer; Madison county, Ora Cripe, Lynnwood; Grant county, Brother Marshall, Swayzee.

Six districts were formed, each one of which has a corps of officers and holds a convention each year. For convenience the schools are grouped into districts as follows:

No. 1. Bluffton, Murray, Six Mile, Marion, Beuna Vista, Olivet and Swayzee.

No. 2. Huntington, Warren, Kelso, Bellville, Plum Tree, Salamonie, Clearcreek and Rock Creek Center.

No. 3. North Manchester, Paw Paw, Antioch, New Madison and Pleasant Grove.

No. 4. Collamer, Union, Eel River, Sidney and Dunfee.

No. 5. Broadway, Sparta, Merriam, Spring Hill, Pleasant Hill North Webster and Thorn Creek.

No. 6. Wakarusa, Goshen, Elkhart, Waterford, Leesburg, Millersburg and Millwood.

Since the organization of the association annual conventions have been held with the following churches: Collamer, fall of 1897; Huntington, May 1898; Merriam, 1899; Collamer, May, 1900; Broadway, June, 1901; Antioch, June, 1902. Each of the conventions has been well attended by our ministers and Sunday school workers, they have resulted in much good to our schools.

The present officers are: President, W. B. Knappe, Cromwell; Vice President, Ed Kitterman, North Manchester; Secretary and Treasurer, J. N. Ohlwine, Cromwell.

THE EEL RIVER CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR UNION

At the annual session of Conference with the Sparta Christian church, in 1899, resolutions were adopted to the effect that the Chris-

tian Endeavor work of the Conference would be greatly augmented by organizing the Christian Endeavor societies of the Conference into an organization to be known as the Eel River Christian Endeavor Union. A committee composed of F. T. Atkinson, W. J. Young and Miss Ocie Karns was appointed to perfect such an organization.

Accordingly a convention was called which met at Collamer, May, 24-25, 1900, when a constitution and by-laws were adopted and the organization perfected. The object of the Union, as expressed by the constitution, is "to promote the Christian Endeavor interests of the Eel River Christian Conference and to bind into closer fellowship the members of the various societies, all for the glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom."

The following resolutions were passed at Paw Paw session of Conference, August, 1897:

1. That our ministers ought to inform themselves concerning the work of the Endeavor Society, and aid the societies in their churches by their presence and counsel.

2. That the societies of this Conference be required to report annually to this body, and that these reports be treated the same as those of the churches and Sunday School.

3. That the Endeavor societies of our churches be granted representation in this body as follows: Each Young People's society may be represented by two delegates, and each Junior society by one delegate, preference given to the Junior Superintendent.

4. That each society make an annual contribution to the Conference Fund and the Conference Mission Fund.

The union is at present composed of fourteen societies, located in the following named churches: Elkhart, Goshen, Huntington, Kelso, Marion, Merriam, Millersburg, Paw Paw, Pleasant Hill, Sparta, Swayzee, Thorn Creek, Warren and Wakarusa. Societies are also soon to be reorganized at Antioch and North Manchester. An annual convention is held each year in the first week in June, jointly with the Sunday school association. A portion of a day's session is also given over to the interests of the Union during each annual session of Conference.

The present officers of the union are as follows: President, Rev. W. J. Young, Huntington; Vice President, F. T. Atkinson, Wakarusa; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. F. O. Jellison, South Whitley; Evangelist, Calvin Perdue, Warren; Member of Executive committee, Rev. Hiley Baker, Kimmell.

INCORPORATION.

Eel River Christian Conference was organized as an association of Christian ministers and churches on the 26th day of August, 1844. Elder A. Baldwin was chosen chairman and W. B. Wade, Secretary. The Conference was not organized as a corporate body until in 1875, but existed simply as an association. During the years from 1844 to 1875 resolutions were passed and business transacted in the interests of the churches and ministers of the Conference in substantially the same manner as has been done since the incorporation of the body. At the annual session of Conference in 1873 a committee on incorporation was appointed. At the annual session in August, 1875, the committee on incorporation reported that what had been done to organize the body had not been done legally and recommended that steps be at once taken to incorporate in accordance with the statutes of Indiana then in force. Thereupon the president appointed as the committee on incorporation, Peter Winebrenner, John P. Kitt and Samuel Ohlwine.

A public notice was given of a called session of Conference to be held on Wednesday, October 13, 1875, at 2 o'clock p. m., at the Christian church near Wolf Lake, for the incorporation of Eel River Christian Conference, to embrace the counties of Steuben, DeKalb, Allen, Wells, Adams, Huntington, Whitley, Noble, Lagrange, Elkhart, Kosciusco and Wabash.

The called session met pursuant to notice. Committee on incorporation reported what had been done. The Conference then proceeded to the election of Trustees. Those elected were as follows, for one year term, Abraham Studabaker, Aaron Simpson and Christian Myer; two years, Miller Morgan, Samuel Ohlwine and J. P. Kitt; three years, Robert Gill, David P. Studabaker and Benjamin Benner. Certificate of election of said Trustees was issued and duly recorded in Albion, Noble county, October 20, 1875, in miscellaneous record No. 2, page 45.

The corporate existence of Conference therefore dates from October 20, 1875.

Conference was incorporated under the act of the legislature in force March 8, 1873, R. S. 1881, sections 3614 to 3623 inclusive, which are as follows:

3614. Election of Trustees. 1. The members of any church or religious socie-

ty of any denomination whatever may, after giving ten days' notice by posting up written or printed notices in three public places in the vicinity of the place where such church or society usually meets for worship, specifying the time and place of such election or appointment, at any regular or called meeting of such church or society, elect or appoint, according to the usages or customs of such society, not less than three nor more than nine trustees, who shall be a body politic and corporate, by such name as such society may elect and designate, for any educational, benevolent, or charitable purpose.

3615. Certificate of Election. 2. The clerk of such society shall issue to such trustees a certificate, setting forth that they have been elected or appointed for such purpose; which certificate shall, within twenty days from its date, be recorded among the miscellaneous records of the county in which such election or appointment is made; and from the date of such recording said trustees shall be deemed a body politic and corporate, by such name as may have been designated by such society, and, as such, may sue and be sued, contract and be contracted with, and shall have authority to receive conveyances of lands, not exceeding twenty acres, by purchase, devise, or gift, and hold the same to them and their successors in perpetuity, for the sole and exclusive uses and purposes of carrying out the objects of such corporate body.

3616. Power to Acquire Property. 3. Such corporation shall have power and authority to acquire and possess, for the uses and purposes and furtherance of the objects of the same, moneys and personal property, by bequest, donation, or otherwise, to any amount not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars, and may appropriate the same and the income or interest thereof, and all other funds in their hands, for the purposes designated by such society, not inconsistent with their trust, nor inconsistent with the conditions of any devise, bequest, or donation made to them.

3617. Power to Sell or Loan. 4. Such trustees are empowered to sell, loan, or otherwise dipose of their corporate property, but not in any manner inconsistent with the duties or objects of their trust.

3618. Seal. 5. Such trustees shall procure a corporate seal.

3619. Officers—Minute Book. 6. Such trustees shall, at their first meeting, elect one of their number president, another secretary, and another treasurer, and shall procure a well-bound book, of not less than three hundred pages, in which shall be kept accurate minutes of their proceedings.

3620. Term of Trustees—Vacancies. 7. Such church or religious society shall, at the time of election or appointment of such trustees, elect or appoint one of them to serve one year, one of them for two years, and the other for three years from the date of their appointment. And said society shall, each year, elect or appoint a trustee to succeed the one whose term expires, and may also, at any regular meeting of such society, elect or appoint a trustee to fill any vacancy that may occur in said board of trustees, by death, resignation, or otherwise.

3621. Holding Over. 8. Should there be, from any cause, a failure to elect or appoint a new trustee as required, those in office shall continue to hold until successors are properly elected or appointed.

3622. Treasurer's Bond—Who May Sue. 9. The treasurer of such board of trustees shall give bond, with freehold surety to be approved by the president of the board, payable to the State of Indiana in a sum not less than double the amonnt of moneys at any time in his hands, conditioned for the faithful and honest discharge of the duties of his trust; and in case of breach of said bond any member of the society electing or appointing such trustees may maintain an action upon said bond as relator, the money recovered thereon to be paid to said corporate body.

3623. By-Laws and Rules. 10. Such board of trustees is empowered to make such by-laws and rules as are necessary to carry out the objects of the trust.

Constitution and By-Laws.

On the incorporation of the Conference a Constitution and By-Laws were adopted as follows, to:wit:

PREAMBLE.

The Eel River Christian Conference in order to become a body corporate and politic, have taken steps in accordance with the act of the Legislature of the State of Indiana, passed March 3, 1873, and adopted the following Constitution and By-Laws.

CONSTITUTION.

Article I.

This incorporation shall be known by the name of "Eel River Christian Conference."

OBJECT.

Article II.

The object of this incorporation is that we may have a legal right to take charge of the property, both real and personal, of said Eel River Christian Conference, whether obtained by purchase, donation, bequest or otherwise.

Article III.

Section 1. The financial affairs shall be placed in the hands of nine Trustees, whose terms of office shall be three years; three Trustees to be elected annually at the sittings of the Conference.

Article IV.

Section 2. Vacancies that may occur may be filled by appointment by the President until the annual election or until his successor is elected.

Article V.

Section 3. The Trustees shall at their first meeting, elect one of their number President, one Secretary and one Treasurer, and shall have power to adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations for their own government, not inconsistent with the object and purpose of the incorporation.

ARTICLE VI.

Section 2. These articles may be amended at any annual meeting of the corporation, provided that due notice shall be given that such amendment will be proposed at next meeting and the nature of such amendment be stated.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees and sign the minutes of the proceedings of each meeting when properly entered and approved. The President, however, may call any member of the Board to the chair temporarily, and the Board may also appoint a chairman pro tem in the absence of the President.

Section 2. The President shall sign all orders drawn on the Treasurer, and shall have all privileges of Trustee and shall not participate in debate while occupying the chair. Upon each vote his name shall be called last.

ARTICLE II.

Section 1. The Secretary shall have the care, custody and keeping of all the books and papers of the Incorporation, except such as shall be required to be kept by other officers of the Incorporation or agents thereof.

Section 2. Books and papers in the Secretary's office shall be open at all times to the inspection of any member of the Board of Trustees.

Section 3. The Secretary shall keep a book or books and record therein the proceedings, as correctly as possible, of all business transacted by the Trustees, and sign all orders drawn on the Treasurer and discharge all duties usually devolving upon such Secretary.

Section 4. The Secretary shall deliver over all books and papers in his hands, pertaining to his office, to his successor in office.

ARTICLE III.

Section 1. The Treasurer shall give a bond to the Trustees, as prescribed by law.

Section 2. He shall keep all moneys paid to him, and shall only pay it out on orders signed by the President and Secretary, and shall keep a book showing all the money received and paid out by him, with

the date when received and when paid out, of whom received and to whom paid.

Section 3. He shall faithfully discharge the duties of his office and shall pay and deliver over to his successor in office, or to the Trustees, all money in the treasury and all things in his hands by virtue of his office, belonging to the corporation.

Section 4. These by-laws may be amended by the Board at any meeting thereof, provided that no such amendment shall be made only by the concurring vote of a majority of all the Trustees.

At the annual meeting of Conference held August, 1893, with the Wakarusa Christian church the following additional by-laws were passed by the Board of Trustees:

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. The Board of Trustees shall have charge and control of all the real estate belonging to the Eel River Christian Conference, and shall cause all deeds conveying real estate to be recorded in the Recorder's office wherein the real estate is situate. Also to be recorded by the Secretary in the records of the Board of Trustees. The Secretary shall also make and keep a list of said property, which list or schedule shall show where said property is located, the value thereof, the kind of property, *i. e.*, whether improved or unimproved, and the kind of improvement, and whether it is occupied or not. Said Board shall make an annual report to the annual Conference setting forth a statement of all the property of the Conference, its condition, value, whether insured or not, and such other matters concerning said property as may be of general interest to the General Conference.

Section 2. The Board of Trustees hereby authorize: That the ministers, delegates, and all other members of the Eel River Christian Conference shall be named and designated as the General Conference, which General Conference shall have general control of the ministers, churches, members and spiritual welfare of this Conference, and shall also have the power to pass such by-laws, rules and regulations as may be deemed necessary to carry out the powers herein granted to the General Conference.

Section 3. The General Conference shall have power to establish mission and other church funds. provide for the collection of the same, and also the disbursement thereof; but the General Conference shall have no power to bind the real property of the Conference.

Section 4. The General Conference shall have the power to elect

a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Finance Keeper, and such other officers and agents as may be deemed necessary to carry out the powers herein granted to the General Conference.

Section 5. The Conference fund to defray the general expenses of this Conference shall be raised by the various churches of this Conference contributing annually the sum of five cents for each and every member of such church; which sum shall be collected and paid over to the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. The General Conference is authorized to appropriate out of said fund a sufficient sum to pay the running expenses of the General Conference.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

Section 6. Annual meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held on the day before the annual session of the General Conference, and at the place of holding such annual session. Special meetings shall be held at any time on the call of the President or three members of the Board of Trustees, ten days' notice being given to each Trustee of the time and place of such meetings and the nature of the business to be transacted at such meeting.

Section 7. The Board of Trustees shall not sell or dispose of any property of the Conference without the consent and recommendation of the General Conference.

Section 8. The Board of Trustees on the sale of any property of the Conference shall preserve the fund arising from such sale, and the same shall not be appropriated for any purpose except for the purchase of church property or the erection of church buildings.

Section 9. The Board of Trustees shall not appropriate any money of the Conference for any purpose to exceed the sum of fifty dollars, without the consent and recommendation of the General Conference.

At the same session held at Wakarusa in August, 1893, the following by-laws were passed to govern the General Conference:

MEMBERS OF CONFERENCE.

Section 1. The members of Eel River Christian Conference shall consist of regularly organized Christian churches and Christian ministers.

HOW TO BECOME MEMBERS.

Section 2. Christian churches and Christian ministers may be-

come members of the Eel River Christian Conference by presenting to the General Conference an application for membership, which applications shall be referred to an appropriate committee, who, if it report favorably on such application, and the general body shall adopt the report of committee, such church or minister shall then be a member of said Conference. All ministers shall then be given the right hand of fellowship.

OFFICERS OF GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Section 3. The officers shall be President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Assistant Secretary and a Treasurer. The Treasurer of the Board of Trustees shall be ex-officio Treasurer of the General Conference. Such other officers, agents and committees as may be necessary from time to time may be elected or appointed.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

Section 4. The President shall preside at all meetings of the General Conference, preserve order, enforce the rules and orders of Conference, appoint all committees when not otherwise provided, sign all licenses issued to ministers and perform such other duties as are usually performed by presiding officers.

Section 5. In the absence of the President, the Vice-President shall perform all duties required of said officer.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

Section 6. Shall make a report of all the proceedings of the General Conference, draw all warrants on the Treasurer, that may be ordered by the General Conference, issue all licenses to ministers under his hand and seal of this Conference, and perform such other duties as may be required of him.

THE TREASURER.

Section 7. Shall keep funds of the General Conference separate from all other funds in his hands, shall pay out of such funds all orders drawn on the same by the General Conference. Shall make his report to the General Conference at its annual session, and make such additional reports as may be ordered by the general body. Such annual report shall show the receipts and disbursements, from what source received and for what expended.

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Section 8. There shall be and is hereby established an Executive Board of this Conference, consisting of six members, who shall hold

their office for a term of one year. The President and Recording Secretary shall be ex-officio members of said Board. The other four members shall be elected by the General Conference at its annual sessions.

DUTIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

Section 9. The Executive Board shall have the power in the recess between the sessions of the General Conference to do and perform all the duties, and exercise all the powers that may be done and exercised by the General Conference while in session and the acts done by the Executive Board shall bind Conference.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Section 10. The President, Vice-President and Recording Secretary and three members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected by the General Conference each year at its annual session. Nominations shall be made for each officer. In all cases wherein more than one person is nominated for the same office, the election shall be by ballot, and the one receiving a majority of all the votes cast shall be declared elected. If only one person is nominated for an office the election shall be by acclamation.

All such officers shall hold their office for one year and until their successor is elected.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Section 11. To be appointed each year.

1. On Filling the Stand.
2. On Introduction of Visitors.
3. On Grievance.
4. On Examination of Reports.
5. On Missions.
6. On Auditing.
7. On Publications.
8. On Condolence.
9. On Moral Reform.
10. On Education.
11. On Destitute Churches, and Church Extension and Finance, shall be the Executive Board.
12. On By-Laws.
13. On Membership.
14. On Program.
15. On Ordination.
16. On Course of Study.

Such other committees may be appointed from time to time, as may be required.

Section 12. No minister shall become a member of this Conference, unless he comes recommended by some other Christian Conference or if such one has never been a member of any Christian Conference, unless he comes recommended by the church of which he is a member.

NOTE—Section 12 was amended at the annual session in August, 1900, and now reads as follows: "Section 12. That we will receive no minister from another denomination until he or she has been a member of the Christian church for at least one year, and thus prove himself loyal to and in sympathy with the doctrine, teaching and practice of the Christian church, and if she or he has not taken a prescribed course of study in preparation for the ministry, they shall complete the course prescribed by Conference. Said applicant shall come recommended by a Christian church of which he has been at least one year a member."

Section 13. Each minister living within and laboring within the bounds of Eel River Christian Conference, is urged to become identified with us in Conference capacity, thereby strengthening us in our labor and placing themselves in a position to obey the injunction of the apostles, "Submitting themselves to the brethren for the Lord's sake."

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Section 14. Any minister who is in good standing in any other Christian Conference may become an honorary member of this Conference on application, recommendation of committee on reception of members and vote of Conference. All honorary members shall have and enjoy all the rights aud privileges of members, except to hold office and vote on propositions for the appropriation of the funds of this Conference.

Section 15. No church belonging to this Conference shall employ a minister unless he comes recommended by some Christian Conference.

Section 16. No church shall permit any minister of any other denomination to hold a lengthy service in any church house belonging to the Christian denomination, with a view of organizing a church therein.

Section 17. The pastor of any church belonging to this Conference, desiring to make a change in his pastoral relation, shall, two months before the end of the year for which he was employed, notify said church of such intention.

Section 18. Any church desiring to change pastors, shall, two months before the end of the year, notify such pastor of such intention of making such change.

Section 19. No church shall be allowed to employ a new minister until full settlement be made for the previons year with her pastor.

Section 20. Ministers when called upon to preach funerals, shall have their expenses, at least, provided for.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Section 21. First, as to church organization.

No minister should organize a church without first conferring with at least two other ministers of the same Conference with himself, one of them to be an Elder.

Second, Those coming together for church fellowship, should promise to watch over each other for good, to dwell together in love and to acknowledge—

First, Christ as head of the Church.

Second, Christian the only name.

Third, The Bible the only rule of faith and practice.

Fourth, Christian character or the fruit the only test of church fellowship.

Fifth, The right of private opinion given to all.

No person who is not a member of the Christian church shall be elected a Trustee of any Christian church of this Conference.

After the church organization has been made, and before the church can become the owner of any real property, the church should be incorporated under the laws of the State of Indiana, under chapter 34, of the revised statute of Indiana, 1881.

By giving notice of the election of Trustees, as provided by Section 3818, R. S. 1881, as amended acts 1895, p. 13, which is as follows:

Notice to Elect Trustees. 3. Notice of the first election of Trustees shall be given at least ten days previous thereto by publication in a newspaper of the county if any be published therein, otherwise by posting such notices in three public places in the township where such election is to take place, one of which such notices shall be posted at the place where the proposed election is to be held. Such notice shall state the time, place of worship or meeting of such society if any there be: *Provided*, That at any subsequent election of such Trustees no such notice shall be necessary where such lodge or society shall in its rules, by-laws or constitution provide and fix the time and place for the election of its trustees.

At the election pursuant to notice, the clerk of the church shall keep a record of the votes cast for Trustees, and within ten days thereafter, shall deposit in the Recorder's office of the county where the real estate is situate, a certificate setting forth the notice of election, the

time and place where the same was held, the name of the church, and the persons elected as Trustees, which certificate shall be recorded among the records of deeds of said county where the real estate is situate. Section 3819.

It is advisable that at the first election of Trustees, one be elected for a term of one year, another for two years, and a third for three years. Every year thereafter, one Trustee shall be elected for three years. In this way there is always two experienced members of the Board. At each annual election of Trustees notice must be given and a certificate filed and recorded, as is required at the incorporation. This should be promptly done. Sections 3819, 3821, 3823, R. S. 1881.

Note—Unless a fixed time and place be designated by the by-laws, see notices to elect trustees above.

Section 22. Second, as to officers of the church:

The officers of the church should be three Trustees, Clerk, Treasurer, one or more Stewards, Deacon or Deacons, as may be deemed best, Sexton and ushers; all officers to be elected by a majority of the members present at the annual meeting of the church.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

First, Trustees have general control over the church property, and make all contracts for the church.

Second, The Clerk to keep a correct record of all the church proceedings, also a roll of church membership.

Third, The Treasurer shall keep a correct account of all the money received into the treasury and paid out by him.

Fourth, The Deacons should aid the pastor in communions and baptisms, and look after the poor of the church. They should also look after any refractory members, and in the absence of the pastor should preside at all church meetings.

Fifth, Stewards should obtain subscriptions, collect and pay over the same to the Treasurer, and take up the collections of the church.

Sixth, The Sexton shall have general charge of the church house, shall keep the same properly heated, lighted, and in good order; he shall also assist in preserving good order at all meetings.

DUTIES OF THE CHURCH.

Section 23. First, Each church shall secure the pastoral labors of some minister of the Christian church.

Second, Each church should promptly pay its pastor the amount agreed to be paid.

Third, Each church should become a member of Conference, and comply cheerfully with all reasonable demands made by said Conference.

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

Section 24. The church should appoint an annual meeting, at which time all the officers of the church should make report to the church. The church should make settlement with its pastor; second, with its sexton; third, make settlement of all other claims; and fourth, should also make arrangements for preaching for the ensuing year. It is advisable to hold quarterly meetings in the church to consider its financial condition and make settlement with the sexton and to do and perform such other business as may pertain to the prosperity of the church.

DUTIES OF PASTORS.

Section 25. First, The pastor should be punctual in filling all his appointments.

Second, He shall visit all careless and luke-warm members.

Third, To visit all members as much as in his power lieth.

Fourth, Ministers should contract in writing with each church by whom he may be engaged as pastor, stating the amount of salary for each year, how the same shall be paid, whether quarterly or otherwise, and the number of sermons to be preached regularly each month.

DUTIES OF MEMBERS.

Section 26. Each member shall render to the officers all needed aid; should pay to support the gospel as the Lord has prospered him. Each member should be punctual in attending all meetings.

CHURCH REPRESENTATION IN GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Section 27. Shall be two delegates for each church organization and one delegate for each fifty members thereof.

Section 28. All claims, applications for aid, and propositions for appropriating funds of this Conference, shall be referred to the Executive Board, and shall not be considered by the General Conference, only on report of this Board.

Section 29. All ministers, churches and Sunday Schools of this Conference shall make report to the General Conference on the first day of the annual session, on the blanks as recommended by the American Christian Convention.

The credentials of any minister failing to report for two consecutive years shall be withheld unless such minister shall make his report. All churches failing

to report for two consecutive years shall be notified by the Secretary that a report is due the Conference, and if said report be not received before the close of the next annual Conference thereafter, such church shall be dropped from the roll. [As amended, annual session, 1894.]

The following resolution passed at 1894 session: *Resolved*, "That we strike out the clause in the licentiate ministers' license prohibiting them from performing marriage ceremonies, and grant them the privilege of solemnizing marriages."

Resolved, "That all ministers laboring within the bounds of the Eel River Christian Conference be required to have the seal of said Conference placed upon their credentials, by the Secretary, and in case of failures of any minister to comply with these requirements, that his case be submitted to the Executive Board for the enforcement of the same." [Passed at the annual session in 1899.]

Resolved, "That the licentiates be required to pursue their preparation for the full work of the gospel minister, and that upon their refusal or neglect to do so within a reasonable period of time, their failure be regarded as prima facie evidence of their intention not to prepare themselves for ordination and sufficient reason for refusing to renew their license." [Passed at the annual session in 1899.]

Section 30. All officers of this Conference shall make a full and complete report at the annual session of Conference, of all official acts done and funds received and disbursed for the preceding year. All reports concerning receipts and disbursements of funds of the Conference, shall be referred to the Auditing Committee.

Section 31. All reports of ministers, Sunday Schools and churches shall be handed to Committee on Tabulation, and then read from tabulated report on call of the President. [As amended, annual session, 1897.]

NOTE—The following was passed at the annual session in 1901: "That the Conference provide a cloth blackboard upon which the Committee on Reports may copy the statistical parts of the tabulated reports of the churches, together with the corresponding reports of the previous year, and that the blackboard containing the tabulated reports be placed before the Conference not later than the Friday forenoon session.

Section 32. No church property within the bounds of this Conference shall be deeded to this Conference until said property shall be free from all indebtedness.

Section 33. Collections for the regular Conference fund to bear the general expenses of the Conference, to insure property, etc., should be taken in July.

Section 34. No money shall be appropriated by this Conference for any purpose other than that for which it was collected.

CONFERENCE MISSION FUND.

Section 35. For the purpose of establishing and maintaining a

Conference Mission Fund, each member of the various churches shall pay the sum of ten cents per quarter for that purpose; said quarterage to be paid in November, February, May and August of each year.

Section 36. The Conference Mission Fund shall be used to establish new churches, to aid weak churches, and to supply an evangelist, if deemed advisable, at any time, and for no other purpose than aboved named.

Section 37. All ministers laboring for the churches of this Conference shall present to the several churches, and promptly take up all collections that are now recommended and required by the American Christian Convention. And also all collections required by the Conference, and shall make report of this matter to the General Conference. Any minister failing to take up these various collections is subject to be reprimanded by the President.

PARLIMENTARY RULES.

Section 38. All persons who arise to speak on any question shall first address the President, and when recognized by the chair, may proceed to speak. The one having the floor must confine himself directly to the question under consideration and avoid all personalities and everything which is calculated to mar the peace or wound the feelings of any one, and the President shall enforce this rule.

Section 39. All motions or resolutions to be presented to the General Conference must be in writing.

Section 40. All members have a right to be heard on all questions. No one will be recognized to speak a second time while some member who has not spoken is trying to obtain the floor; and no one will be allowed to occupy the floor a second time for longer than five minutes without the consent of Conference.

Section 41. All members of the Conference, both ministers and delegates, are required to remain during Conference session, unless excused by the President in open Conference, and if any objections be offered to the President's permit by any member, then he must obtain consent of Conference before he is legally excused.

Section 42. The minutes of each half day's session shall be read and approved at the beginning of the next half day's session.

Section 43. No person not a member of this Conference, or honorary member shall offer any motion, or resolution, in General Conference, unless by consent of Conference first obtained.

Section 44. Cushing's Manual shall govern on all Parliamentary questions where no special rule exhists.

Section 45. All by-laws or resolutions governing this body, heretofore passed, are hereby repealed.

Section 46. These by-laws may be amended at any annual session of the General Conference by a majority vote of the members present. But before a proposed amendment shall be passed upon by the General Conference it shall be referred to the Committee on By-Laws.

OTHER MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

The following were recommended by the Executive Board and passed at the annual session in 1897:

DIPLOMAS.

The Board commends the issuing of diplomas to those finishing Course of Study, with a charge of $2.00 to each one receiving said diploma.

BADGES.

The Board also recommends that badges be prepared by the President in sufficient number that each minister, officer and delegate of Conference may be provided with one of the same during each session of Conference, and at the close of each session the badges to be returned to the Secretary to be kept for use at the next session.

The following motion was passed at the annual session in 1899:

"Moved that the picture of the organization of Conference be left with the church where Conference is held until the next session and then taken to the point where Conference is to be held."

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, the Executive Board, would recommend that the Sunday Schools in the bounds of Eel River Conference, take up a special collection in the month of October, for the Franklinton College. The same to be kept account of and reported to Conference in the annual Sunday School reports. But the collection, as soon as taken, sent to Rev. J. F. Burnett, Eaton, Ohio. [Passed at annual session in 1895.]

At the annual session of Conference in August, 1900, the following recommendations were passed:

"The manner of selecting a pastor is one of great importance, and their is considerable complaint on account of the method employed by

both church and pastor. Therefore, we recommend that the church members of each individual church, after earnest prayer, consult together as to the person for pastor who is best qualified, spiritually, socially, intellectually, and in every other way to build up God's spiritual house in their community, not looking so much for a cheap worker as for one to come among them who will set forward the Kingdom, remembering that 'the workman is worthy of his hire.'"

"We also recommend that preachers, after much prayer and seeking to be led by the spirit of God, shall serve the church where he is led to believe God can best use him to build up his work. Always having a written contract and looking after a prompt fulfillment of the same."

MISSIONS.

The first missionary work authorized by this Conference was in 1852, when a resolution was passed authorizing the appointment of an evangelist to preach within the bounds of this Conference to weak churches, solicit for his support and be paid $75.00 by Conference for his services. In 1861 the committee on missions reported in favor of organizing this Conference into a missionary society.

At the annual session in 1867 a resolution was adopted, "that each minister take up at least two collections during the year for missionary purposes, and also that any person failing to comply with such request be reprimanded by the President."

At the annual session in 1871 a resolution was passed, "that each male member comprising the churches of this Conference shall pay fifty cents annually into this Conference, in order that the financial board may supply destitute churches with preaching, and for the purchase of tracts and other publications.

At the annual session in 1884, it was ordered that each minister who has not laid before, and endeavored to collect the Conference Mission, to his charge severally, shall be reprimanded.

At the annual session in 1886, it was resolved, "that each member of each church be assessed five cents per quarter-year as a missionary fund, to be used among weak churches of Eel River Christian Conference.

At the annual session in 1887, a resolution was passed assessing each member of the different churches of this Conference ten cents per quarter.

At the annual session in 1890, it was resolved, "that this Conference raise, during the next six months, through the medium of ten cents per quarter, Home Mission Fund; the first half, which will be twenty cents per member which will consummate the amount of funds for the purpose of building one church this year, and that a committee of five shall be appointed to say where such church shall be located." The committee appointed was Jonathan Whitelock, A. T. Studabaker, J. W. Griffith, Samuel Long and Andrew Pence.

The action of this session of Conference led to the organization of

the Huntington Christian church. This committee decided in favor of Huntington as the most available point. Elder George Abbott was selected to canvass this field and hold a meeting at Huntington, which he did, and on May 23, 1891, he, with the assistance of Elder Peter Winebrenner, organized this church, with 27 charter members, your president heading the list.

In 1891, a motion prevailed that the Home Mission Conference fund, of ten cents per quarter, should be paid when due—in November, February, May and August—and the regular Conference fund in July.

At the annual session in 1892, the Conference Mission Fund was more fully established by the adoption of Sections 35 and 36 of the by-laws.

This Conference adopted mission work as early as 1852. We are not advised as to the success of this early movement, but it is very certain, that it at least created a sentiment in favor of home mission work, within our own limits. In the years 1886 and 1887 this sentiment became crystalized into a more permanent shape, and from these years a more systematic and determined effort was made along the line of our Conference mission work. From 1890 to 1901 the contributions were as follows, annually:

1890	$103 44
1891	104 98
1892	95 36
1893	126 93
1894	130 59
1895	167 94
1896	129 76
1897	159 37
1898	191 42
1899	379 64
1900	277 08
1901	489 36
Total of	$2355 87

An average of $196.32 per year.

What has been accomplished with this money?

This Conference mission money has been expended by our Conference in helping the following churches: Waterford, Huntington, Goshen, Millersburg, Sidney, Leesburg, Salamonie, Xenia, Thorn

Creek, Liberty Union and Elkhart. The money expended for these churches was well expended. In nearly every instance the church was sustained at a critical moment and much good done. A small amount was expended at Xenia that did not seem to bring much results to the church but possibly some good was accomplished. The Conference Mission Fund has been the means of saving several churches and of establishing at least two new churches, Huntington and Elkhart.

This Conference has contributed to Home Mission Fund A. C. C., annually, as follows:

1890	$ 103 94
1891	112 08
1892	213 11
1893	116 37
1894	98 17
1895	99 33
1896	122 03
1897	142 88
1898	121 38
1899	111 70
1900	108 59
1901	130 23
Total	$1479 81

Foreign Missions, collections for

1890	$ 69 36
1891	50 34
1892	32 28
1893	109 60
1894	51 78
1895	39 67
1896	39 77
1897	47 66
1898	51 26
1899	188 32
1900	51 50
1901	92 48
Total	$ 824 02

Recapitulation.

Collections from 1890 to 1901, inclusive:

Conference Mission	$2355 87
Home Missions to A. C. C.	1479 81
Foreign Missions to A. C. C.	824 02
Total	$4759 70

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